Table of Contents

1. Allegiances
2. Prologue - Ice
3. Chapter 1 - Lightningstar
4. Chapter 2 - Dewstar
5. Chapter 3 - Silverstar
6. Chapter 4 - Lightningstar
7. Chapter 5 - Dewstar
8. Chapter 6 - Silverstar
9. Chapter 7 - Lightningstar
10. Chapter 8 - Dewstar
11. Chapter 9 - Silverstar
12. Chapter 10 - Lightningstar
13. Chapter 11 - Dewstar
14. Chapter 12 - Silverstar
15. Chapter 13 - Lightningstar
16. Chapter 14 - Dewstar
17. Chapter 15 - Silverstar
18. Chapter 16 - Lightningstar
19. Chapter 17 - Dewstar
20. Chapter 18 - Silverstar
21. Chapter 19 - Lightningstar
22. Chapter 20 - Dewstar
23. Chapter 21 - Silverstar
24. Chapter 22 - Lightningstar
25. Chapter 23 - Dewstar

Allegiances

RainClan

Leader:
Lightningstar - Gold tabby she-cat with a white chest, a white belly and green eyes.

Deputy:
Petalshine - Light brown she-cat with amber eyes

Medicine Cat:
Cherryfrost - Red she-cat with a white chest and yellow eyes
Apprentice, Frostpaw - White tom with gray patches and blue eyes

Warriors:
Bluefeather - White she-cat with blue eyes

Pebblelight - Brown tabby tom with yellow eyes

Dustfur - Pale brown tom with green eyes

Marigoldtail - Gold she-cat with a white tail, white paws, and yellow eyes

Roseshade - Dark ginger she-cat with brown paws and blue eyes

Mintsong - Dark Grey she-cat with green eyes

Leaflight - Silver tom with black splotches and amber eyes

Cloudlight - White tabby she-cat with a gray tail and green eyes

Waveclaw - Brown tom with long claws and blue eyes

Queens:
Sparkwing - Gold she-cat with red paws (Mother to Greykit, a gray tabby she-cat with green eyes)

Blossomfern - Black tabby she-cat with yellow eyes (Mother to Bramblekit, a brown tabby tom with green eyes and Rosekit, a black she-cat with yellow eyes.

Elders:
Morningrain - Light brown tabby she-cat with Green eyes

Birchfur - White tabby tom with green eyes

PondClan

Leader:
Dewstar - Light brown tabby she-cat with dark brown paws and blue eyes

Deputy:
Sunpebble - Light ginger tom with amber eyes

Medicine cat:
Blossompool - Tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

Warriors:
Mouseclaw - Light brown tom with green eyes
Apprentice, Thornpaw - Grey she-cat with yellow eyes

Aldertail - Dark Ginger she-cat with a black tail and green eyes
Apprentice, Riverpaw - Silver tabby tom with black paws and blue eyes

Mothshine - Grey she-cat with white paws and yellow eyes

Palefur - Cream colored tom with yellow eyes

Spottedflower - Tortoiseshell splashed white she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice, Pebblepaw - White she-cat with black splotches and yellow eyes

Frostwing - Grey tom with black paws, white ears, and green eyes

Queens:
Dapplelight - Light brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes (mother to

Pondkit, a brown tabby tom with yellow eyes, Rainkit, a cream colored tabby she-cat with amber eyes, Stonekit, a cream colored tom with brown paws and yellow eyes, and Flowerkit, a light brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes)

Sunsong - Light ginger she-cat with yellow eyes

Elders:

Cherryheart - Red she-cat with a white chest and green eyes

StoneClan

Leader:
Silverstar - Silver she-cat with a black tail, black paws, and blue eyes

Deputy:
Spruceclaw - Light brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Medicine Cat:
Berryfall - White tabby Tom with blue eyes

Warriors:
Stormheart - Gray tom with white ears and green eyes

Leafpelt - Tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

Treefur - Cream colored Tom with a white chest and yellow eyes

Russetblaze - Red she-cat with white paws and amber eyes

Flowershine - Black she-cat with yellow eyes
Apprentice, Lionpaw - A gold tabby Tom with blue eyes

Shadowpool - Dark gray tabby she-cat with green eyes

Icenose - Pure white tom with a pink nose and yellow eyes

Owlwing - Ginger and white she-cat with yellow eyes

Queens:
Ivyshade - Red she-cat with black paws and yellow eyes

Elders: Milkbreeze - Cream colored tom with a black tail and green eyes

FlowerClan

Leader:
Icestar - Pure white she-cat with gray ears and yellow eyes

Deputy:
Skyclaw - Gray tom with green eyes

Medicine Cat:
None

Warriors:
Frostflight - Gray she-cat with a white back and yellow eyes

Daisywish - Gold tabby she-cat with blue eyes

Thrushwhisker - Light brown tom with white ears and blue eyes

Nectarpelt - Light ginger she-cat with blue eyes

Sparrowlight - Brown tabby tom with yellow eyes

Bluewing - Blue-gray she-cat with green eyes

Nightfur - Black she-cat with blue eyes

Brightcloud - Black and white tom with amber eyes

Sunpelt - Ginger tom with yellow eyes

Harefern - Light brown tom with a white tail and green eyes

Queens: None

Elders: None

Cats outside of the Clans

Rose - A white she-cat with ginger and gray splotches and amber eyes, a kittypet

Thrush - Brown tom with yellow eyes, a rogue

Jade - Dark gray tabby she-cat with white paws and green eyes, a rogue

Faith - Small white she-cat with amber eyes, a rogue

Dusk - Light brown tabby tom with blue eyes, a kittypet

Prologue - Ice

Ice scrambled onto the fence post as a large group of cats emerged from the forest. The cat leading them, a gray tom, looked straight ahead in determination despite the grief clear in his green eyes.

The other cats seemed nervous as though they didn't quite approve of what the gray tom was doing. Others seemed on edge simply because they were in twoleg place, glancing around from time to time with their pelts fluffed up.

Ice watched silently as the cats reached her fence. Her thoughts whirled, wondering why these cats could have possibly come to her. She turned her attention back to the gray tom as he spoke up.

"I'm Skyclaw. You're Ice, right?" The tom started, "This is FlowerClan, you met us a few sunrises ago? We camped out over there?" Skyclaw raised a paw towards a field near Ice's house.

"Oh, I remember you! Where's that ginger she-cat?" Skyclaw glanced back at the cats spilling out behind him, then spoke hesitantly.

"Poppystar died right after we arrived in our territory." His voice shook. Ice looked closer at the tom, noticing that his pelt had matted patches and his ribs were showing through his pelt. He looked sick with grief for this she-cat. They must have been close.

"Why are you here?" Ice said after a few moments of silence. Skyclaw looked up from his paws, seemingly startled that Ice was still sitting above him.

"We need a new leader." Ice's ears pricked up. If these really were Clan cats, why would they want to take in a house pet like her?

"I'm sorry?"

"You are the only cat we know besides the other Clans' cats that is healthy." Skyclaw jumped onto the fence next to Ice, his legs

shaking. Ice was worried he might topple over any second.

"Why don't you ask one of them, then?" Ice said, "Why take me in when you can have a fully trained warrior?" Ice had heard many tales of the Warrior Clans from her mother and had always been fascinated by them.

"They would never leave their Clans for a bunch of rogues." Rogues? She had thought they were pure bred Clan cats returning to their rightful territory!

"Surely some cat in your Clan is fit enough to lead?" Ice's yellow eyes glimmered as she gazed into the forest, imagining herself as the leader of these cats.

"The sickness that killed Poppystar was so sudden and so horrible that we don't even know if half of us will live until tomorrow." Ice suspected that the gray tom was exaggerating, but she let him continue. "Will you *please* join us?"

Ice pretended to think about the offer. She gazed at Skyclaw's pleading eyes and the sick cats below her, then smiled.

"Of course."

Chapter 1 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar padded out of her den, her thoughts on the gathering that would be held that night. It would be held in FlowerClan's camp for the first time. Lightningstar was slightly nervous and hoped that RainClan would make a good impression in front of the new Clan.

She was snapped out of her thoughts when Petalshine walked up to her.

"Lightningstar, are you ok? You look worried." The light brown she-cat mewed.

"I'm fine." Lightningstar's pelt grew hot with embarrassment. She shouldn't be worried, things would go fine. "Have you figured out who's going to the gathering?"

"I've been thinking up a plan for that actually." Petalshine smiled. "We could let our clanmates decide if they go or not. They're always complaining that they didn't get to go, or that they don't want to, so this should fix that."

Lightningstar nodded. It made sense. Petalshine walked away to ask about who wanted to go to the gathering and Lightningstar was left alone next to her den.

She shuffled her golden paws restlessly. She had already completed all of her duties for the day. To her delight, one of her best friends, Pebblelight, walked up to her after a few moments.

"Lightningstar!" The brown tabby called. "Have you forgotten anything today?"

Lightningstar laughed. She had always been forgetful, even from kithood.

"I don't think so!" She looked around the camp. Morningrain and

Birchfur were bathing in the sun while Bramblekit and Rosekit chased each other around the camp noisily.

"Are Blossomfern's kits ready to be apprenticed?" Lightningstar mewed, seeing how big the young cats were getting.

"They're just a few days older than six moons, which means you *did* forget something!" Pebblelight teased. Lightningstar swiped playfully at his head with paw with her claws sheathed as he laughed and ducked.

"Well, when the patrols get back, I'll apprentice them. Do you think Mintsong is ready for an apprentice?" Pebblelight nodded.

"Please don't even think of apprenticing Rosekit to Roseshade just because she's named after her." Lightningstar stuck her tongue out at him.

"Too late!"

***

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, please gather near the Fallen Tree." Lightningstar leaped onto the tree and gazed down at her clanmates. Kits, queens, elders, and warrior all came happily out of their dens, eager to hear what Lightningstar had to say.

"Rosekit, Bramblekit, please approach the Fallen Tree." The kits scrambled over eachother to get to Lightningstar first as their parents looked at them with a mixture of laughter and love.

"Rosekit, you will be known as Rosepaw for now on." Lightningstar stared straight into Pebblelight's yellow eyes as she said the next sentence. "Your mentor will be Roseshade since you are named after her."

The two cats touched noses then took a step back from the tree, the younger bouncing slightly on her paws.

"Bramblekit, you will be known as Bramblepaw until you earn your warrior name. Your mentor will be Mintsong." Lightningstar stepped off of the tree after the other two cats touched noses. "And

now, we go to the gathering!" She called.

The sun was setting as the RainClan cats walked quickly through the forest, bathing their territory in bright, warm light. By the time they had found their way to FlowerClan's camp Silverpelt had replaced the sunset with glittering stars.

"Lightningstar, you're late." Dewstar mewed harshly. Lightningstar flattened her ears.

"I'm sorry, Dewstar. We were having an apprentice ceremony and lost track of time." Lightningstar apologized. She sat next to the other leaders, avoiding their gazes.

"Who wants to speak first?" Silverstar said from next to Dewstar. Dewstar stepped forward a bit.

"PondClan is doing great. Prey is-" Lightningstar stared at the white she-cat next to her, Dewstar's mew fading out. Who was she? Had something happened to Poppystar?

She scanned the group of cats below her. Lightningstar didn't remember any white cats being in FlowerClan when they had arrived...

"Lightningstar?" She nearly jumped out of her tabby pelt.

"What?" Dewstar's eyes narrowed.

"It's your turn to report."

"Oh, uh, RainClan is doing well. We have two new apprentices, Bramblepaw and Rosepaw!" Lightningstar smiled as the Clans called out their names.

"Bramblepaw! Rosepaw!"

They quieted down after a bit and Lightningstar continued.

"The pine forest is full of prey and none of our cats go hungry." Lightningstar turned towards Silverstar, who she knew would be speaking next, but the white cat spoke instead.

"Should I introduce myself again?" She asked a gray tom, Skyclaw, below her. He nodded and she faced the other leaders.

"I'm Icestar, the new leader of FlowerClan." She paused. "Though, I used to just Ice."

"FlowerClan? Where's Poppystar?" The white cat glanced down at the tom.

"She died yesterday, on her way to the Moonstone. Of sickness, I believe." Lightningstar looked down at her paws. "Skyclaw invited me to join FlowerClan and lead them."

"What!? You just joined FlowerClan and now you're *leading* it?" Silverstar narrowed her blue eyes.

"I'm the only cat who can!" Icestar insisted. Dewstar and Silverstar looked at her skeptically.

"Do you have nine lives?" Lightningstar asked. She stepped between Icestar and the other leaders, trying to stop the tension growing between them.

"Of course." Icestar mewed.

"Do you even believe in StarClan?" Dewstar's brown tabby pelt spiked up, making the long-haired she-cat seem even fluffier.

"I've believed in it since I was a kit, one of my ancestors was a Clan cat turned kittypet." Lightningstar thought back to her Clan's history. She had never heard of a Clan cat leaving RainClan. Maybe it was from PondClan or StoneClan?

Dewstar scoffed and Icestar glared at her.

"But you know *nothing* about Clan life! Does FlowerClan even have a medicine cat?" Dewstar looked down at the FlowerClan cats scornfully. Icestar bent down to whisper with Skyclaw again.

"Um, I'm not sure. But Bluewing knows a lot about herbs." Icestar gestured to a she-cat in the crowd with a white paw. "Skyclaw chose me because I am perfectly healthy and strong. Almost all of

my Clanmates are sick or injured!"

"Dewstar, Silverstar, I think we should-" Lightningstar was cut off by an angry Icestar.

"Just let me lead my Clanmates! It doesn't involve you!"

"What!? How does this not involve us!?" Silverstar roared. " FlowerClan took in a *kittypet* as their *leader,* someone who is supposed to be trusted by everyone! What happens in FlowerClan impacts all of the Clans!"

Every cat in the crowd was angry by now. Lightningstar looked down at them, her green eyes filling with worry.

She flinched as lightning struck near Highstones followed by loud thunder. The leaders looked towards the moon.

It was covered by dark clouds. Lightningstar sighed.

"StarClan is angry, " Lightningstar paused as the cats next to her snarled at each other. "For *whatever* reason."

"We must stop the gathering." Dewstar mewed, nodding.

And with that the gathering came to a close, leaving each Clan more suspicious of each other than ever before.

Chapter 2 - Dewstar

Dewstar walked into the medicine den, hoping to get her mind off the gathering. The new leader of FlowerClan Icestar, Dewstar, and Silverstar had started to fight. If the three clans went to war it would be devastating for all the Clans.

"Hello, Dewstar. What brings you to the medicine den?" Blossompool, PondClan's medicine cat asked as Dewstar walked in. A dark ginger she-cat was sleeping in one of the nests that were for sick cats.

"I just wanted to check on Aldertail," Dewstar said, glancing at the she-cat. Aldertail was the only cat that still had greencough.

"She's doing really well, and she'll be able to return to warrior duties as soon as she's completely over the sickness," Blossomfern replied, turning her attention back to sitting herbs.

Dewstar walked out of the den, thinking of other things she could do. Being a leader was quite boring at times since nobody expects you to go on patrol. She gazed across the clearing until she spotted a group of cats leaving, which must be a border patrol. She raced over to them, joining the patrol at the entrance.

"Can I join the patrol?" Dewstar asked, gazing at the group of cats around her.

"Of course you can," Spottedflower said from the front of the patrol as they padded into the woods.

Dewstar joined the back of the patrol and stared in awe of her territory. It was beautiful! It was clear why Redstar had chosen this territory. Originally there was just RainClan, led by Tulipstar who used to be a kittypet. Then she and Redstar, who had been called Redflower then, decided that their Clan was getting too big. So they split it into three small, but somewhat equal Clans. Tulipstar remained leader of RainClan, Redstar made PondClan, and

Mousestar made StoneClan. The only problem with their territory was that it got really warm fast, but that was probably true for all the Clans.

As the patrol headed towards the border with FlowerClan, the only border PondClan had never patrolled until the new Clan had come, Dewstar and the patrol leaped over the small streams that ran through their territory until they came to the large pond that was their main source of prey in leafbare.

Thornpaw ran ahead and dipped her paws into the pond, her grey pelt shimmering in the sunshine. Pebblepaw followed her, sighing with relief. The two sisters swam together for a few moments until Mouseclaw called them back.

"Sorry, Mouseclaw. It's just so hot out here!" Thornpaw apologized, as Pebblepaw nodded.

"Well, if you're that warm, maybe Spottedflower and I will take you hunting in the pond later. Then you can swim all you want." Mouseclaw said as the two apprentices looked at each other excitedly.

"But right now we have to patrol the borders," Spottedflower said, walking towards FlowerClan's border on the other side of the pond. As they reached the border Dewstar could smell FlowerClan scent marks.

"At least they know they have to patrol," Mothshine said, speaking for the first time since they started the patrol. As soon as they started marking the borders a FlowerClan patrol appeared, each of the four cats carrying a bundle of moss. A brown tabby tom dropped his bundle first, the other cats waiting for a moment before dropping theirs as well.

"I'm Sparrowlight." The tom spoke, glancing back at his group of cats.

"This is Harefern."A light brown tom stepped forward.

"This is Daisywish" Sparrowlight pointed his tail towards a gold

tabby she-cat.

"And I'm Frostflight." A grey she-cat stepped forward, her white back standing out from the dark forest behind her.

"We have been sent by FlowerClan to trade with you." The tom said, looking at Dewstar. the Clans didn't usually trade unless a Clan needed medical supplies that grew on another Clan's territory but didn't need them right away. Maybe they needed to help cure Skyclaw? Yesterday Icestar said he was sick.

"And what would you like to trade?" Dewstar asked the tom, glancing down at the bundles of moss beneath each of the cat's paws. It was a lot of moss, but usually, the Clans traded prey or medical supplies for things.

"Icestar wants to trade moss every day for prey every day."

"We can't possibly do that! It's almost Leaf-fall! Soon there will be no prey to spare!" Spottedflower said, looking in shock at the tom.

"If it gets too cold you will need moss. How does having too little prey matter if you all freeze to death?" Frostflight said, her fur rippling along her spine.

"We will starve to death first!" Mouseclaw said, stepping forward to glare at Frostflight. Pebblepaw and Thornpaw were sitting at the back of the group, their eyes widened in shock.

"Dewstar, please tell me you aren't going to agree to this," Mouseclaw asked, his tail swishing behind him.

"Sparrowlight, please tell Icestar that we do not agree to this trade. If we find any patrols forcing our cats to trade, we will make sure that you are punished." Dewstar said, surprised to find her voice was mostly calm.

"Alright then," Sparrowlight said, grabbing his bundle of moss. The others grabbed their bundles and the group padded back into their territory.

Dewstar gazed after them, wondering why Icestar would ever think

PondClan would agree to such demands. Every Clan needed prey in Leaf-fall, but can't they hunt for themselves? Most of the cats in the group used to be rogues and they definitely know how to hunt. Even if Icestar didn't hunt they still had the most warriors, at least by one or two cats.

The rest of the patrol was uneventful. The borders had no strange scents and nobody had seen any other Clan cats on PondClan territory. As they walked into camp Dewstar headed straight to her den, telling Sunpebble to follow her as she went.

"Is something wrong, Dewstar?" Sunpebble said, his amber eyes glistening with worry.

"When I was out on patrol today we were met by a group of FlowerClan cats. They asked us to trade moss for prey every day." Dewstar said, sitting down in her nest.

"Surely you didn't agree?"

"No, I didn't, but what worries me is that Icestar thought it would work. She thought we would trade prey for moss every day when it's so close to Leafbare. If it was just a one-time thing I would probably agree. We can always use more moss." Dewstar said, looking up at her deputy.

"Maybe they misheard her. She might have wanted prey only one time." Sunpebble said hopefully, shuffling his paws. After a moment he padded out of the den and started to organize a hunting patrol.

Dewstar knew they hadn't heard Icestar wrong. She had wanted prey every day for a reason, but Dewstar couldn't think of a reason that could possibly be.

Chapter 3 - Silverstar

Silverstar looked up at the sky, the moonlight making her silver fur glow. She hadn't slept since she had gotten back from the gathering. It would be dawn soon. Silverstar got up from her nest, stretching before padding through the camp entrance. Icenose was outside, keeping watch over the camp.

Silverstar walked into the forest, opening her mouth slightly to taste the air. Through the sounds of the forest, she could hear something rustling in a bush a fox length in front of her. She dropped into a hunting crouch, stalking over to the bush. She lifted her tail slightly, feeling the breeze flow through it. She was downwind, and she caught the scent of a mouse as she started to walk around the bush. When she got close enough to it she leaped, pouncing on the small animal.

She scraped earth over it and continued on her way. She found herself heading towards the new FlowerClan border and began to think about what had happened. She had yelled at Icestar and FlowerClan without even asking them for reasons. Even Lightningstar had agreed with Silverstar and Dewstar on some things, but she hadn't been screaming about it!

She looked up at the stars, hoping StarClan would send her a sign that she wasn't a horrible cat. The stars sparkled unresponsively overhead. With that, she fell asleep under the stars.

***

She walked into camp the next morning and was greeted by a tired voice.

"Hello, Silverstar. Where have you been?" Said Ivyshade, her stomach heavy with kits.

"I just went out for some night hunting and fell asleep," Silverstar said through the mouse clamped in her jaws. She had picked it up on her way back from the forest. It was a lot colder now, but

somebody would eat it. She placed on the fresh-kill pile and took a small squirrel for herself, then padded over to where Icenose, Stormheart, and Ivyshade were eating.

"So what do you think of FlowerClan's new leader?" Silverstar said, biting into her squirrel. She hoped she wasn't the only cat with suspicions about how well Icestar could lead.

"Well, FlowerClan must have a good reason for choosing her to be their leader," Icenose said, licking one of his forepaws.

"But she was a kittypet. Like Silverstar said yesterday, she knows nothing about the warrior code." Stormheart said, taking a few bites of his mouse. Lionpaw walked over to them and sat down next to Ivyshade, carrying a vole.

"How do we know she was a kittypet?" Lionpaw asked, looking at Silverstar.

"Well, she smelled like a kittypet, and she wasn't part of the rogues that made FlowerClan," Silverstar said, stretching out one of her back legs. Lionpaw nodded, taking a bite of her vole.

"So when are your kits due?" Silverstar asked after a few moments of silence.

"In a quarter moon," Ivyshade said, moving closer to Stormheart. Silverstar finished her mouse and stood up, stretching. She decided that she would take a nap so she wasn't so tired. She had barely gotten any sleep last night even after she had gone into the forest. She walked sleepily over to her den and sat down in her nest, burying her nose in her tail before falling into a deep sleep.

She appeared in a forest, snow falling around her. She walked forwards, trying to figure out where she was. She crossed a fallen tree and saw the lake in PondClan territory. It looked frozen, the surface shimmering with a cold light.

She walked towards it, wondering why the ice was not damaged. PondClan fished through holes they cut in the ice during leafbare , so how could the ice be so solid?

She tested the ice with one paw, surprised to find it didn't crack at all. She jumped softly on to the ice, and it turned to mist. Silverstar didn't have time to call for help as she was thrust into the icy water, sinking to the bottom of the pond quickly. She could feel the lives draining out of her and she looked around, only to see what would have made her scream if she had any air.

Cats were all around her, lying dead on the sandy floor. She recognized all the cats from her own Clan, as well as the other Clans. She sat up, relieved to be able to breathe again, but was struck with horror as she realized she had left her own body behind. Laying beside it was Dewstar and Lightningstar, their tabby pelts slowly melting into the water. She gasped as they were suddenly gone, the other cats around her disappearing until she was alone with her body. It too melted, leaving behind nothing. Silverstar looked down and saw her silver fur turning darker until it was almost black and she was quickly pulled out of the water. She had a brief moment of happiness of being out of the water until she was pulled into a dense forest.

The ground was red with what looked like blood, and the sky was dark, not a star to be seen. She walked forward cautiously until a dark red she-cat emerged from the darkness. She was covered in scars, and a wound on her black back dripped blood that pooled below her. She leaped at Silverstar, baring her bloodstained teeth.

Silverstar woke up, Spruceclaw looking over her, worry showing in his eyes. Silverstar rushed past him to the medicine den, hoping that Berryfall was there and not hunting for herbs.

"Berryfall! Berryfall I had a dream!" Silverstar said, rushing into his den at the sight of him. She explained her dream quickly, never stopping to make sure he was paying attention. Berryfall paced around his den as she finished the story.

"It could mean something, but I have no idea what," Berryfall said.

"What if it means that leafbare is going to kill us all!?" Silverstar exclaimed, too frantic to listen to her medicine cat.

"Well, leafbare isn't what killed those cats in your dream, right?" Berryfall assured her, touching his tail to her shoulder. Silverstar

thought about it for a moment, then decided her medicine cat was right.

"It might be better not to mention this dream to the Clan yet, not until we understand it a little better. If wouldn't be nice to worry them over nothing if it was just a dream." Berryfall said, going back to sitting herbs. Silverstar walked out of his den, trying not to think of all the cats that had died in her dream.

Chapter 4 - Lightningstar

Half a moon later, Lightningstar looked up from her mouse as the scent of FlowerClan hit her nose. Icestar padded into RainClan's camp, leading a group of cats behind her. Lightningstar stood up, walking towards them as they sat down in the center of the camp.

"Hello, Icestar. Why are you here?" Lightningstar said, gazing at the cats behind Icestar. She recognized a gray tom with green eyes as Skyclaw, who was sitting beside Icestar.

"We have a new medicine cat, Bluewing," Icestar said proudly, as a blue-gray she-cat stepped forwards. Bluewing dipped her head respectfully to Lightningstar quickly, then stepped back and nodded to her leader.

"Surely that announcement could have waited until the next gathering? It is only in half a moon." Lightningstar said, sitting down a tail-length from Icestar.

"She has had a vision!" Icestar exclaimed, fluffing out her fur. "A vision that clearly stated that PondClan is going to do something horrible that will destroy the Clans!"

Lightningstar's eyes widened and murmurs of disbelief spread through the crowd of cats around her.

"That seems a bit farfetched, doesn't it?" Lightningstar said, narrowing her eyes. Petalshine padded up to sit beside Lightningstar, her light brown pelt bristling.

"StarClan has spoken! We must listen to what they are trying to tell us!" Icestar exclaimed, her tail swishing behind her as she stood up. Bluewing and Skyclaw nodded their heads, their pelts still sleek.

"What was the dream about? We need to know so we can discuss it." Lightningstar mewed, pointing her tail at her Clan.

"Why does it matter? Icestar and Bluewing have talked about it, and they know it's about PondClan!" A gray she-cat said from the group of FlowerClan cats.

"Frostflight, we can handle this," Icestar said, looking back at the she-cat. Frostflight twitched her tail with annoyance but listened to her leader. A light brown tom with white ears placed his tail on her shoulder and smiled.

"I think we should wait until the next gathering to discuss this with the other leaders. You can tell them about the dream then. Silverstar will have something to say about this." Lightningstar said, trying to calm her Clan of angry cats.

"I suppose that would be a good idea," Icestar said, gathering her cats.

"Before you go, you are welcome to stay and share tongues." Icestar nodded and the two groups of cats dispersed and made their way over to talk to one another. Lightningstar padded towards where Bluewing was sitting next to Cherryfrost, RainClan's medicine cat, and a black and white tom from FlowerClan.

"How is FlowerClan settling into their new territory?" She asked Bluewing and the black and white tom.

"FlowerClan is doing great! The freshkill pile is full and herbs grow surprisingly well." Bluewing said, glancing at the tom. "This is Brightcloud."

"Hello, Lightningstar." He said, dipping his head towards her.

"Bluewing, are you familiar with the medicine cat code? That you can't have a mate or kits?" Cherryfrost asked, stretching one of her front legs.

"Cherryfrost, which one is chervil again?" A voice called from the medicine cat den. Cherryfrost looked up and started to walk towards it.

"Sorry, I have to go." Cherryfrost disappeared into the medicine den.

"Oh! Brightcloud, don't you have some news to share?" Bluewing said, turning towards the tom.

"My mate, Nightfur is going to have my kits," Brightcloud said, licking one of his front paws.

"Congratulations!" Lightningstar said, standing up and stretching.

"Cats of FlowerClan, we will be leaving now!" Icestar said, her Clan gathering around her. She walked out of camp, her cats following her.

Lightningstar walked into her den, her best friend Pebblelight following her.

"You do know this is the leader's den right? *Where only the most important cat in the clan lives."* Lightningstar said in a voice that sounded suspiciously like Stormstar.

Pebblelight laughed and then ran over to the freshkill pile. He picked up two mice by their tails and walked back over to Lightningstar, the mice dragging slightly on the ground.

"Well, I brought prey so don't complain," Pebblelight said, tossing one of the mice at her paws. He sat down and started to eat his mouse, while Lightningstar paced around her den.

"I just don't get it! PondClan never does anything aggressive! We've only fought with them once while I've been leader!" Lightningstar said, watching as a group of cats went on patrol.

"You haven't been leader that long, and you actually weren't leader then," Pebblelight said, taking a few bites of his mouse. Lightningstar flicked his nose with her tail. He was right of course, she had only been leader for a few moons.

"That isn't important. The other Clans fight all the time! Don't you remember Flowersong's stories?" Flowersong had been an elder when Pebblelight and Lightningstar had been kits. She had talked often of the tales of the other Clans, describing them as vicious fighters who fought almost every moon. She had said that they sometimes came together to defeats threats to all the Clans, but

besides that, they hated each other.

"But we aren't the other Clans. We are way more peaceful then them. Our last battle was that battle with PondClan." Pebblelight said, finishing his mouse. He grabbed the other mouse because Lightningstar wasn't eating it.

"Tulipstar and Redstar wanted to make new Clans just like the others right?" Flowersong had told her that. Flowersong had been a kit when Tulipstar had been leader, but she remembered it clearly. Redstar was from the other Clans and she wanted to make a new Clan just like her old one.

"We don't know that for sure, but it's probably true." Screeches erupted from the clearing outside. Lightningstar and Pebblelight ran out of the den, their pelts prickling.

Cats were fighting all over, some from RainClan, but most were rogues. The ground was already splashed with blood, but nobody seemed to have any major injury yet. There were many more rogues than RainClan cats, and Lightningstar knew they needed help. As Pebblelight leaped into battle Lightningstar ran out of the camp, heading for StoneClan.

She opened her mouth to scent the air and followed the scent of StoneClan to their camp. Silverstar looked up as Lightningstar raced through the entrance.

"RainClan is being attacked!"

Chapter 5 - Dewstar

Dewstar watched as Sunpebble led Thornpaw, Riverpaw, and Pebblepaw out of camp. He was taking them on a hunting trip to practice for their warrior assessments. While he was gone she would have to pick someone to fill in as deputy.

Dewstar looked around camp to find someone that she trusted enough to be deputy for a bit. Most of the patrols for the day had already headed out, besides the evening patrol and the later hunting patrols. The number of cats that were left in the camp was strikingly small. She finally spotted Palefur walking out of the nursery after visiting his kits, Pondkit, Rainkit, Flowerkit, and Stonekit. He had been deputy for a few days when Sunpebble had been sick with greencough in the last moon.

"Palefur!" Dewstar meowed as she walked towards him. "SunPebble is out with the apprentices. Can you fill in as deputy for the day?" She said when she had caught up to him.

"Of course, I'd be honored," Palefur said, "Have you met the kits yet?"

Dewstar shook her head, heading towards the nursery. The kits had been born a little over a half a moon ago, but Dewstar had been too busy to visit.

"Hello, Dewstar. Have you come to meet the kits?" Dapplelight said, gently waking the four kits. Three of them were tabbies like their mother, one light brown, one brown, and one cream colored. The other one was cream colored with brown ears. Dewstar nodded and bent down to greet the kits.

"I'm Stonekit!" The cream colored tom said enthusiastically, his yellow eyes wide. Dapplelight nosed the light brown tabby forwards, but the cream colored tabby practically leaped over the other kits to introduce herself.

"And I'm Rainkit!" The kit said, gazing up at Dewstar with large amber eyes. The light brown tabby hurried forwards, determined not to be last.

"My name is Flowerkit. What's your name?" The tabby said politely.

"I'm Dewstar."

"Your name ends with star!" The cream-colored tabby said as Dewstar nodded.

"That means she is the leader of our Clan!" The brown tabby said in awe, bounding forwards to join his littermates.

"What's your name?" Dewstar asked the small tom and turning towards him.

"My name is Pondkit." Dewstar purred as she recognized the names of the Clans in the kits.

"Did you know that you are named after the Clans?" The kits looked confused for a moment and one by one they looked towards their mother.

"I wanted each Clan to be represented," Dapplelight said, as the kit's expressions of confusion grew.

"PondClan is our Clan and we are the only Clan who fish. We share a border with FlowerClan, who lives in the forest with StoneClan. StoneClan has huge boulders they can hunt on. Our other border is with RainClan, who can hunt extremely well in storms." Dewstar touched her tail tip to each kit's nose as she spoke, and felt a surge of pride as she explained the Clans. It was important that their young learn about their ancestors. She was about to say more when she heard yowling coming from the clearing.

"Dewstar! Dewstar!" She recognized the voice of Riverpaw as she hurried outside. The apprentice's silver tabby pelt was bristled, along with Thornpaw's and Pebblepaw's.

"Sunpebble needs help!" Thornpaw cried, her voice a shrill wail.

"We were hunting and Sunpebble scented rogue cats! And...and they attacked him! Three of them!" Pebblepaw wailed, her eyes wide.

"Spottedflower, Frostwing, Mouseclaw, and the apprentices come with me," Dewstar ordered, determined to help her deputy. "Lead us to him." She said to Riverpaw when the cats she had named had gathered behind her.

Riverpaw led them to the edge of the StoneClan border, where it met territory that belonged to none of the Clans. His eyes glittered with worry as the group scented fresh blood scent. As they emerged on the top of a hill Thornpaw gasped with horror.

In a pool of his own blood lay Sunpebble, the blood flowing calmly down the hill. As the group padded closer Dewstar could see that his hind paws were horribly damaged beyond repair, until the point where she could see parts of the bone. His throat had been torn out and blood trickled out of his mouth.

Dewstar rushed forwards until she came to his body. She buried her muzzle in his still warm fur, wrapped up in her grief. The other cats stared silently at the dead deputy's body, waiting for Dewstar's orders.

"Spottedflower. Mouseclaw. Will you help me carry him back?" Dewstar said, dreading the moment that she would have to tell the Clan. The two cats nodded, lifting up Sunpebble's body. Dewstar stepped forwards to support his head, feeling numb. They carried him as the apprentices talked quietly, their eyes full of sadness. Frostwing walked with them, trying to comfort the group.

"It's all our fault!" Pebblepaw wailed, looking guiltily at Dewstar as Thornpaw and Riverpaw nodded. "We left him! We could have fought with him! We could have won! When he told us to fetch help only one of us should have gone!"

"You did what he asked. It was the loyal thing to do." Dewstar mewed, trying to keep her voice steady. Pebblepaw looked at her paws, clearly not convinced.

Sooner than Dewstar would have liked they reached camp. As soon

as they padded in cats started to gather around them, asking about Sunpebble. The kits seemed the most curious.

"Is he dead?"

"Who did this? I'll shred them!"

"Can we save him?"

Blossompool padded out looking hopeful, but Dewstar shook her head. There was no saving this cat. Dewstar leaped onto the small overhang that was on top of her den, then called the cats together.

"If anyone does not know, Sunpebble is dead. He died a noble death fighting for his Clan's territory, but it was much too soon. He should have been able to serve his Clan for many moons to come. But the Clan must move on. I need to appoint a new deputy. I say this over the body of Sunpebble so that his spirit can hear and approve my choice. Palefur will be the new deputy of PondClan." The cream colored tom looked up in surprise, clearly not expecting to be picked.

"Thank you Dewstar." Palefur blinked at her gratefully, then retreated into the crowd.

"There is one more ceremony to perform today. Mouseclaw, has Thornpaw earned the title of warrior?" The tom nodded as Thornpaw stepped up to the overhang. "Aldertail. Spottedflower. Are your apprentices skilled enough to be warriors?" The she-cats nodded as their apprentices rushed up to Dewstar.

"I call upon my warrior ancestors to look upon these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand your noble code and I condemn to you as warriors in their turn. Riverpaw, your warrior name will be Rivershine. Thornpaw, your new name will be Thornheart. Pebblepaw, you will be known as Pebblespot. Serve your Clan well." Dewstar leaped down as the Clan called out their new names. She settled down and blocked out the world around her, ready to begin the vigil.

Chapter 6 - Silverstar

Silverstar and her group of cats ran through the forest, Lightningstar at her side. Lightningstar had already explained how rogue cats had attacked her camp. As they approached the camp entrance Silverstar peered under the fallen tree. Cats were fighting everywhere, and it was clear that RainClan was losing. Before she could give the signal her cats were already leaping into battle. She stood shocked for a brief moment before leaping after them.

She landed on a light brown tom and started slashing her claws against his ears. He dropped down and Silverstar jumped nimbly away before he could roll over and crush her. He hit her chest with his hind paws and stalked into a large group of fighting cats before Silverstar could react. She got back onto her paws quickly and spotted Bluefeather fighting two rogues cats. She attacked the rogue that was closest to her, scoring her claws across her flank. The tortoiseshell she-cat let out a menacing hiss and turned towards Silverstar, balancing on her hind paws and aiming front paw swipes at Silverstar's head.

Silverstar ducked too late. One of the she-cat's forepaws hit the side of her face and her ear, leaving a decently sized nick in her ear. Silverstar stumbled as the wave of pain threatened to overwhelm her. She thought briefly of how it shouldn't have hurt so much, while Bluefeather grabbed her scruff and started dragging her out of the battle. The two rogues had already joined another to fight Petalshine and Silverstar weakly tried to escape Bluefeather's grasp to help.

Bluefeather dragged her to one of the dens near the fallen tree. Judging by the strong scent of Lightningstar Silverstar suspected that it was the leader's den. She stumbled to the nest as Bluefeather positioned herself outside the den, closed her eyes, and sank into darkness.

***

Silverstar woke up the next day, surprised that she hadn't had any dreams. Every day since her horrifying vision she had kept seeing small bits of it every night. She blinked in surprise as she noticed that her right eye was blurry on one side. She wondered where she was for a moment, then remembered the battle. A white tom was sorting herbs and as she sat up he pushed a few herbs towards her with a gray paw. She lapped up the healing herbs quickly, happy to find that they were some of the better tasting ones.

"I'm Frostpaw, the medicine cat apprentice." The tom said through a mouthful of herbs. He stopped chewing and started to spread the mixture across the side of Silverstar's head. Silverstar flinched as the juice of the herbs started to sting. Silverstar scented Lightningstar a moment before she walked into the den.

"How are you feeling Silverstar?" Silverstar turned towards her with her good eye.

"I'm fine, but I have a few questions," Silverstar said as Lightningstar nodded.

"That makes sense."

"Why did Bluefeather take me out of the battle? I was fine! I could have kept fighting!" Silverstar mewed as Frostpaw started to put the herb mixture on her ear.

"You almost passed out. If Bluefeather hadn't saved you, that she-cat could have killed you." Lightningstar said cautiously, as Bluefeather happened to walk past the den.

"It was only a scratch! Cats have had much worse injuries and still fought." Silverstar grumbled.

"And kits have only scratched their eyes a little bit, then had to stay in the medicine den for days," Frostpaw said, finishing with the herbs.

"You have a deep scratch on your eye. You'll most likely have a scar, but we don't know about your eyesight. Can you see out of that eye?" Lightningstar said, pointing with her paw to Silverstar's

injured eye.

"A bit," Silverstar said, glancing away to look at her paws. How could she be a strong leader if she couldn't see out of half of her eye?

"That's good." Before Silverstar could reply Lightningstar left to join a patrol. Now she was alone with Frostpaw.

"How long will I have to stay here?" Silverstar snapped, ready to run out of the den at the slightest implication that she could do so.

"A few days probably. At least until you get your strength back." Frostpaw said cheerily.

"I'm ready now!" Silverstar jumped up, suddenly feeling light-headed. She sat back down when it became apparent that the feeling would not be going away.

"Have you ever had a sign from StarClan?" Silverstar asked after a few moments of silence.

"I haven't, but Cherryfrost had one just today." Frostpaw mewed, his eyes shining. "She was in the woods and she saw a huge rock and it fell over onto a clump of flowers. She said only StarClan could have moved the rock."

"Cherryfrost is the medicine cat, right?"

"Yup! She's a great mentor" Frostpaw walked out of the den, leaving Silverstar alone for a few moments. He returned with a light brown she-cat who was limping. As the she-cat sat down in a nearby nest Silverstar could see that on one of her front paws the pad had been ripped to shreds and slathered in herbs.

"This is Petalshine. She was badly injured too." Frostpaw said.

"Frostpaw! I have to talk to you!" A voice right outside the den said as Frostpaw exited the den. Silverstar angled her ears towards the entrance to hear what they were saying, her right ear hurting a bit.

"Frostpaw, I think you are ready to become a full medicine cat."

"But...I don't know half of the herbs!" Frostpaw's voice said.

"You're ready when I say you are! Let's go tell Lightningstar." Silverstar heard their pawsteps fade into the distance as she looked over at Petalshine. The light brown cat looked just as shocked. Clearly, this wasn't normal behavior for Cherryfrost, who had seemed calm and incapable of yelling at gatherings.

The two cats silently stared at each other until Silverstar heard pawsteps approaching angerly outside the den.

"Silverstar! Go home! You're fit enough now! Go!" The red she-cat snapped as she entered the den, her tail lashing angrily. Silverstar nervously got up, the lightheadedness returning. As she padded weakly out of the den she looked back. Cherryfrost was giving her a death glare like Silverstar had done something terrible.

There was definitely something wrong with that medicine cat.

Chapter 7 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar was padding towards the entrance to camp to go hunting when she was stopped by Cherryfrost and Frostpaw.

"Lightningstar, I would like Frostpaw to become a full medicine cat," Cherryfrost said calmly, wrapping her tail around her paws.

"But he has only been training for four moons!"Warrior training usually took around six moons, but medicine cat apprenticeship lasted much longer.

"It's actually been six! He's ready now!" Cherryfrost hissed, the fur on her tail beginning to bristle, as Frostpaw looked fearfully towards the medicine cat. Lightningstar thought of her 8th life. Biarstem, the RainClan medicine cat at the time had given her a life for faith in her medicine cat.

"Very well. If he has anything else to learn I'm sure you'll teach him before the next half moon." Lightningstar said, shuffling her paws.

"It would be impossible to teach him to clean the elder's bedding correctly by tonight, but other than that he is completely ready to become a medicine cat!" Cherryfrost snapped as if she thought Lightningstar was doubting her decision.

"Tonight!?" Lightningstar hated being so forgetful. She forgot the simplest things. From apprentice ceremonies to the time, she forgot everything at least once.

"Didn't you notice the moon?" Frostpaw asked, tilting his head slightly to the side.

"Oh, um...I just was so busy I didn't notice!" Lightningstar said quickly, looking around frantically for something to distract herself from her mistake. "Pebblelight! Wanna go hunting?"

The brown tabby looked up and padded happily towards

Lightningstar. They left quickly, leaving Frostpaw with a confused expression on his face.

"So where should we hunt?" Pebblelight asked after they had walked a few tail-lengths from the camp.

"How about in the Star Field?" Lightningstar put on a burst of speed and made a running leap over a fallen tree. Pebblelight stood frozen for a moment before running to catch up with her, swerving around the tree.

Lightningstar felt soft grass beneath her paws and she blinked as she suddenly emerged into a sunlit clearing. She took a small jump and skidded to a halt at the top of a large stone that overlooked the vast field in front of her. As Pebblelight jumped up beside her she spotted a vole shuffling through the grass below her.

Before Pebblelight could say anything LIghtningstar pounced onto the small vole, missing the creature's spine as she tried to kill it. She quickly fixed her mistake and looked up at Pebblelight, her muzzle splattered slightly with vole blood.

"I always was a sloppy hunter," Lightningstar remarked as Pebblelight helped her bury the freshkill.

"You aren't *that* bad..." Pebblelight said, opening his mouth to scent the air. They continued to hunt until the warriors of StarClan started to appear in the sky. The Sky Field had a wonderful view of Silverpelt, and Pebblelight and Lightningstar sat down to admire the stars. They stared silently up for a moment, enjoying the spectacular sight above them.

"Which one do you think is Sunpaw?" Lightningstar mewed, searching the sky for her only brother.

"That one." Pebblelight laughed, pointing with his tail to one of the more dim stars as he stretched. Lightningstar laughed and turned her gaze back to Pebblelight as she heard a loud splash.

Pebblelight had tripped and fallen into a puddle, splattering his brown tabby pelt with mud.

"That's what you get for messing with my brother!" Lightningstar meowed, her voice shaking with laughter. Pebblelight shook out his fur, then pushed Lightningstar down into the puddle.

"Hey!"

"You were laughing, too!"

Lightningstar frowned at him, then broke into a smile. Lightningstar and Pebblelight moved a few paces away from the mud puddle, then gazed into each other's eyes. The two pairs of green and yellow eyes showed what they had never felt for any other cat.

"Lightningstar...um...well," Pebblilight studdered, looking down at his paws. Lightningstar clung to every word, hoping for only one thing. "Will you be my mate?"

Lightningstar couldn't speak for a moment. Her mind was going crazy and she was the happiest she'd ever been.

"Um...of course!" Lightningstar buried her muzzle in his neck fur, and Pebblelight licked her lovingly on the cheek.

* * *

Lightningstar and Pebblelight walked into camp, surprised to find it still full of cats even though it was long after moonhigh. Bluefeather walked up to them, a relieved look in her eyes.

"There you are! We've been looking for you since sunhigh! Where were you?" Bluefeather mewed, a small group of cats gathering around her.

"We were hunting," Lightningstar said as Pebblelight walked out of camp and returned with a few pieces of prey shortly after. "Have Cherryfrost and Frostpaw returned from the moonstone?"

Bluefeather nodded and Lightningstar padded into the medicine cat den. Frostpaw was in the center of the large den, sorting bundles of sweet-smelling herbs. Cherryfrost was nowhere to be seen.

"Are you a full medicine cat?" Lightningstar asked Frostpaw as he

looked up at her.

"Yup! I'm Frostfeather now!" The small white and gray tom mewed, bouncing around happily in a small circle until he came to an abrupt stop and shuffled his paws. "Um...at the moonstone...I had a vision."

Lightningstar sat down to listen to Frostfeather, hoping his vision would help clarify some things about Icestar's accusations against PondClan.

"I was in StarClan's hunting grounds as usual, but no one was there. Usually, I meet with Snowstreak, the first RainClan medicine cat, but she wasn't there. So I just wandered around, waiting for StarClan to appear to me. A bunch of cats suddenly came towards me, but they were made of plants! They ran past a huge rock and it crushed them! It just fell over! Just like in Cherryfrost's vision!" Frostfeather explained, clearly confused about what he had seen.

"Hmm...It wouldn't make much sense for Icestar to assume that the vision was about PondClan, so Bluewing couldn't have seen the same thing..." Lightningstar mumbled to herself, leaving Frostfeather behind as she wandered into the main clearing. Most of the cats that had been looking for her and Pebblelight had gone to sleep by now since it was almost dawn.

She yawned and headed towards the leader's den before remembering that Silverstar and Petalshine hadn't been moved to the medicine den yet. She padded into the den to visit the injured cats, but she could only see the light brown pelt of Petalshine sleeping peacefully in a corner. The other nest was empty and the scent of Silverstar was faint. Cherryfrost padded up behind her and Lightningstar's eyes widened in horror as she glanced back at her.

Cherryfrost was covered in blood.

Chapter 8 - Dewstar

The other cats of PondClan followed Dewstar in preparing for Sunpebble's vigil. Blossompool was just settling in beside Dewstar when the last hunting patrol padded into camp, followed by gasps of shock. Frostwing and Aldertail, who had been cured of her greencough a few days earlier walked up to Sunpebble's body and sat down next to Rivershine and Mouseclaw. Mouseclaw quickly whispered the story of how Sunpebble had died, and Frostwing and Aldertail seemed to take the news well. They both nodded slowly and settled in for the vigil.

Mothshine, the last cat of the patrol was still standing at the entrance to the camp. She slowly padded up the Sunpebble's body, sitting down on Dewstar's other side and staring silently down at Sunpebble. Dewstar explained how Sunpebble had died, but Mothshine showed no sign that she had heard her. Mothshine began quietly whispering to herself, and Dewstar had to strain to make out what she was saying. She only caught one sentence.

"I didn't even get to tell him that I'm expecting his kits..."

Dewstar tried to pretend she hadn't heard that. It was making losing Sunpebble harder than she could bear. Sunpebble should have lived to see his kits grow up. It wasn't enough that he would be watching them from StarClan. He needed to be there for them, to guide them through Clan life. But now he would never get the chance. Trying only to think of good memories of Sunpebble and not the cats who would suffer because of his death, Dewstar slipped into sleep.

* * *

The full moon bathed PondClan's camp in a silvery light as Dewstar waited for the other Clans to arrive. It was a half moon after Sunpebble's death and the Clan was started to run normally again with Palefur as deputy. Mothshine had moved into the nursery and seemed to have gotten over the worst of her grief.

StoneClan was the first to arrive. Silverstar dipped her head to Dewstar respectfully before leaping onto the small overhang where the leaders sat for gatherings. Dewstar could see that there was a fresh scar running down her face and made a mental note to ask about it later. RainClan arrived next and while Lightningstar seemed like her usual self, some of her clanmates were casting the PondClan cats suspicious looks. As Lightningstar took her place next to Silverstar FlowerClan padded into the clearing.

Icestar had clearly settled into her role as leader. She walked confidently up to the overhang and looked proudly down at her warriors as they talked with the other clan cats. Dewstar let out a yowl to call the clans together for the meeting then climbed up to sit between Icestar and Silverstar. The two she-cats had fought ferociously at the last gathering, so Dewstar didn't quite trust them to sit beside each other. Dewstar nodded to Silverstar, signaling her to report for her Clan.

"The warriors of StoneClan fought against the rogues in the attack on RainClan, and I was the only one seriously injured. Lightningstar allowed me to stay at there camp for a while so her medicine cats could treat me. Thank you." The moonlight lit up Silverstar's face so that Dewstar could see the scar more clearly. It started from her left eye and ran up her face until it ended with a small nick at the base of the silver she-cat's ear. Dewstar scanned the group of RainClan cats below her, but none of them seemed to have any serious injuries.

"Well, RainClan should be thanking you for coming to help us! We couldn't have possibly defeated the rogues alone." Lightningstar dipped her head to Silverstar in thanks before continuing her report. "RainClan also only had one serious injury in response to the battle. We hope that Petalshine will be able to join us for the next gathering as soon as she has healed." Dewstar looked towards her left to look at the deputies. She hadn't noticed that Petalshine had been missing. She looked back up as Icestar began her speech.

"Bluewing has had a vision from StarClan that proclaims that PondClan is going to do something horrible." Dewstar's eyes widened and she began running through lines she could use to defend her Clan in her head. Silverstar looked equally as shocked,

but Lightningstar looked calm and unsurprised, which was very unlike her.

"Why do you say that? What was the vision about?" Dewstar was shocked when Silverstar started talking first, even though StoneClan wasn't the one being accused. Silverstar's tone was more curious than threatening though, so Dewstar prepared to argue with both Silverstar and Icestar.

"Wait...who is Bluewing?" It had just struck Dewstar that FlowerClan had no medicine cat and no one to interpret the signs StarClan sent. Why would a random warrior be receiving signs?

"Bluewing is our new medicine cat." Silverstar and Dewstar looked over at the medicine cats while Lightningstar still looked unconcerned with what was happening around her. She sat washing one of her front paws, looking uncharacteristically careless about what was going on.

"But what was the vision like?" Silverstar mewed loudly, very interested in what Icestar had to say. Dewstar was itching to defend her Clan, to screech and yowl about how absurd Icestar's claims were. She held back her anger though, just long enough to give Icestar a chance to explain her reasoning behind her accusations.

"Why do you cats always ask such dumb questions?! Bluewing's dreams from StarClan are private! Icestar and Bluewing have figured out that a certain Clan doesn't have such good intentions..." A gray and white she-cat hissed from below Dewstar. Icestar silenced the cat it's a glare and continued speaking.

"What Frostflight says is true, even if she needs to work on her tone of voice when she is addressing a leader." Icestar gritted her teeth and shot another glare at the gray cat. "The details of this vision should not be revealed while all of our Clans are watching. This vision came to FlowerClan so it is our choice if we choose to share them or not."

"Can you at least tell me if she fell into a pond? I had a vision like that." Silverstar said, leaning closer to Icestar.

"No, I don't think she did." Icestar looked down at a blue-gray she-cat for help. The cat shook her head and Icestar looked back up at Silverstar.

"My vision was about how FlowerClan was going to do something bad. I'm sure of it." Silverstar mewed. Dewstar was at a loss for words. She hadn't spoken much during the gathering, even though the main discussion was about her own Clan.

"We would never! PondClan is the evil Clan! You must be making that up!" Icestar hissed. "You're probably just trying to form an alliance with PondClan to drive the other Clans out!"

"None of our Clans have ever had alliances! Our warrior code forbids it!" Dewstar hissed in outrage. There were many differences between the other Clans' warrior code and the new one, but one of the major differences was the no alliances rule.

"If there's a chance that I'm making my vision up then there is also a chance that Bluewing never had her vision either." Silverstar curled her tail over her paws, clearly trying to contain her anger. Icestar opened her mouth to speak, but she was interrupted by Lightningstar.

"Look!" A light brown tabby tom had padded into PondClan's camp. He looked around as if searching for someone, then looked up at the leaders. His eyes widened.

"Ice!"

Chapter 9 - Silverstar

Silverstar's eyes narrowed and she glanced at Icestar as she thought back to when she had first met her.

"I'm Icestar, though I used to be just Ice."

Is this one of Icestar's friends from when she was a kittypet? Did he want to become a warrior? Silverstar leaned forwards slightly, making herself look more put together than the other leaders. Lightningstar had finally seemed to break out of her trance and was staring at the tabby tom with her mouth slightly open, while Dewstar was looking questioningly at Icestar. The white and gray she-cat looked down at the tom with a mixture of annoyance and Silverstar thought she could see a hint of nervousness too.

"Icestar, do you know this cat?" Silverstar asked calmly, trying to act like her Clan and her Clan's cats were the best. She would never give up the chance for an extra warrior, especially when three out of the four Clan leaders had been fighting just a few moments earlier.

"Dusk, why have you come here?" Icestar mewed, ignoring Silverstar's question.

"To find you, of course! Why did she call you Icestar?" The tabby tom's voice was filled with excitement at finding his friend, but also held a bit of uncertainty.

"Because that's my name." Icestar was surprisingly calm, even though the nervous look in her eyes was still there.

"No, it not...your name is Ice!" Dusk's voice was beginning to sound more and more terrified.

"She's a Clan leader now. Like the other three of us, her name now ends with star. For example, while she is Icestar I am Dewstar, leader of PondClan." Dewstar said, acting like the full grown cat

below her was a newborn kit. Silverstar tried to catch the tabby's eye to somewhat show him that she didn't think that he should be treated so poorly.

"Can I join her Clan then? She's my best friend!" Silverstar looked at Icestar, hoping that she would refuse so that Silverstar could welcome Dusk into her Clan.

"We have plenty of warriors already. We don't need a barely trained kittypet." Icestar flicked her tail dismissively. Trying to ignore Dusk's look of heartbreak, Silverstar prepared to let him join StoneClan. She would probably give Russetblaze the job of mentoring Dusk since she hadn't had one since Leafpelt had become a warrior. What would be a good name to go with Dusk?

Hmm...Duskflight would be nice, but it doesn't make much sense. What about Duskclaw? Wait...Silverstar thought, I think I just stole a name from an elder.

"If you still want to join a Clan PondClan would welcome you." Silverstar's jaw dropped. Dusk was supposed to be her new warrior!

"That makes sense. PondClan does have the least amount of warriors, even if it's just by one or two." Lightningstar agreed, clearly not interested in recruited Dusk as a member of her Clan. Silverstar nodded reluctantly.

Dusk seemed to brighten up as he was excepted into PondClan. Dewstar stepped forwards.

"Cats of all Clans, tonight I will make a new apprentice. Dusk, do you wish to join PondClan?" The brown tabby nodded and Dewstar continued. "Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your apprentice name, Duskpaw. Your mentor will be Frostwing." A white tom stepped confidently up to the base of the overhang and touched noses with the new apprentice.

"Unless anyone has anything else to say, I think this concludes the gathering." Lightningstar's voice trailed off and her cats began saying their goodbyes. Silverstar looked at the other leaders. Since none of them said a thing for a few moments she nodded to her cats

and StoneClan prepared to leave. As they left Silverstar looked back at the leaders that were still on the overhang, which were Dewstar and Icestar. She needed to find out if Icestar was telling the truth.

She looked at Spruceclaw, who was walking next to her. He was counting how many cats were in their group to make sure nobody was missing. It was good that he was doing that since they wouldn't want to lose Owlwing again.

"Spruceclaw," Silverstar mewed. "I need to go to the moonstone to speak with StarClan. I will be back in the morning. Can you take care of the Clan until I return?" Spruceclaw nodded and Silverstar slipped away from the group and headed towards the moonstone.

Most of the journey would be through StoneClan territory, and Silverstar would only have to go through RainClan territory for a few fox-lengths.

Silverstar slipped past Dewstar and the PondClan cats then climbed over one of the large boulders that marked her territory. She quickly found the worn down path to the moonstone and slowed her pace.

Since Silverstar was walking through her Clan's territory she stopped to hunt. Silverstar spotted a bird and crouched down to stalk it. She caught the bird after a moment and ate it in a few quick bites.

Silverstar kept walking until the path headed into RainClan territory. She looked for any RainClan cats that could be out for some night hunting, then sprinted across the last few fox-lengths until she had reached the base of the mountains.

Silverstar traveled up the rocks until she reached the top. She brushed off the stones on her paws that had gathered while she was walking, then she walked to the other side and almost fell down the tunnel to the moonstone. She looked up at the moon and was relieved to find that she would have a few hours to talk to StarClan before dawn.

Silverstar ran straight through the tunnel, finding that going

through the darkness quickly helped her not feel the fear that others felt while staring at the entrance. She slowed to a walk as the blinding light of the moonstone brightened up the tunnel.

Silverstar peered at the bright stone through narrowed eyes and padded forwards until she could settle down next to it.

Then she put her nose to the stone and sank into a deep sleep.

Chapter 10 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar shot a glare at Cherryfrost as the RainClan cats left the gathering. The red she-cat had claimed that the blood on her pelt had come from prey, but Lightningstar was still suspicious. Cherryfrost had been acting weird ever since then, and a little bit before.

Pebblelight padded up next to her and tried to see what she was looking at. Lightningstar tried to block his view of the red she-cat. She hadn't told him about what had happened with Cherryfrost yet.

And she wouldn't tell him until she had figured out the truth.

***

"Lightningstar?"

"Yeah?" Lightningstar looked up to see Petalshine poking her head inside the leader's den.

"I'm moving to the elder's den."

"What!? Why!?" Lightningstar sprang up from her nest, her eyes wide.

"Well, I can barely walk." Petalshine looked down at her paws. Lightningstar followed her gaze and instantly felt horrible. She should have known why Petalshine wanted to join the elders. Her wound wasn't healing.

"I understand." Lightningstar tried to keep her voice steady. "I'll announce it to the Clan when I've found a new deputy." Lightningstar followed Petalshine out of the den and while Petalshine went to talk to the elders, Lightningstar padded over to a group of cats eating freshkill.

The group included Bluefeather, Pebblelight, and Marigoldtail. They had all been kits at the same time since Pebblelight and Bluefeather

were only a moon older than Lightningstar and her siblings. Lightningstar sat down next to Pebblelight, who purred as Bluefeather and Marigoldtail continued talking.

"I wonder how Cloudlight is doing," Bluefeather said, as Marigoldtail looked at her in confusion. "Don't tell anyone until she announces it, but she's having a second litter of kits."

"That's great! But isn't it a little close to leafbare?" Marigoldtail and Bluefeather didn't seem to know or care that Lightningstar and Pebblelight were sitting right next to them and could hear their entire conversation.

"She's moving to the nursery soon, and I think the kits will be strong enough by the start of leafbare."

"Frostpaw is going to be so excited! He's always wanted siblings." Lightningstar opened her mouth to correct Marigoldtail, but Bluefeather was faster.

"He's Frostfeather now, remember?" Marigoldtail frowned.

"I still don't think he should have become a full medicine cat so soon." Marigoldtail tail swung her tail back and forth, sending a cloud of dust into the air.

"Hmm...He did ask me which herb borage was yesterday. He seemed very scared to ask Cherryfrost." Bluefeather looked towards the medicine cat's den as Marigoldtail groomed her tail.

"Exactly! He should have been trained for a few more moons!" Marigoldtail tried to brush off some of the dust that was still on her white tail.

Lightningstar sprang up from her sitting position as she remembered that she still had to pick a new deputy. She looked around the camp. The only other cats there were Morningrain and Birchfur, who were basking in the sunshine and grooming their tabby pelts. Lightningstar looked back at her friends. Morningrain and Birchfur were both elders, so Lightningstar tried to think of a good reason for one of her friends to be deputy.

She suddenly knew who should be deputy.

***

Lightningstar jumped onto the fallen tree that made up the entrance to the camp, then called the cats to a Clan meeting. Only a few cats weren't in camp, but Lightningstar had made sure that they didn't mind missing the meeting.

The cats started to gather and as they walked towards the tree they started talking about what the meeting could be about. Graykit, who was being led to the meeting by her mother Sparkwing, was still four moons too young to be an apprentice. Lightningstar turned to Petalshine, who had sat right under the fallen tree.

"Petalshine, is it your wish to give up the name of a warrior and join the elders?" Everyone in the crowd gasped, except for the elders. Petalshine must have already told them about her decision.

"I-it is."

"Your Clan honors you and all of the services you have given us. I call upon StarClan to give you many seasons of rest." Petalshine walked over to the elders and the Clan looked expectantly at Lightningstar, waiting for the new deputy to be announced.

"Since Petalshine is now an elder, it is now time for me to choose a new deputy. I say these words before StarClan, so that the spirits of our ancestors may hear and approve my choice. After careful consideration, I have decided that Bluefeather will be the new deputy of RainClan." Bluefeather looked up in surprise, then stood up straighter.

"I am honored, Lightningstar."

"Lightningstar!" Bramblepaw jumped through the camp entrance, his pelt bristling. "Blossomfern and Rosepaw are being attacked by a fox!"

Lightningstar quickly gathered a large patrol and Bramblepaw led the way to the fox. Lightningstar scented blood and sped up, following the scent instead of following Bramblepaw.

Rosepaw was bending over Blossomfern, desperately trying to stop the wave of blood that was coming from her mother's neck. The scent of fox was everywhere, and Rosepaw had clear scratches all over her body.

Frostfeather lept forwards, pressing cobwebs onto the wound. Cherryfrost had stayed in the camp. Frostfeather's paws were shaking, and as he ordered some cats to find more cobwebs his voice was very quiet.

Bramblepaw was the first cat to return with cobwebs, and immediately after giving them to Frostfeather he ran off to find more. The other cats returned soon after Bramblepaw had disappeared into the woods, but Blossomfern's breaths were getting too faint for the other cats to hear.

A few moments passed as the cats were silent, desperate to see or hear some sign of life coming from the she-cat. Frostfeather pressed more cobwebs onto the wound, but Blossomfern had gone to StarClan.

Rosepaw pressed her nose into her mother's fur as Frostfeather looked down at his paws. Lightningstar chose a few cats to carry Blossomfern, including Bramblepaw and the clan walked back to the camp in complete silence.

Chapter 11 - Dewstar

Dewstar turned towards Duskpaw as the other Clans left the gathering. She was happy that the tom had joined PondClan, but she had seen the look on Silverstar's face when Dewstar had offered to let Duskpaw join her Clan. It wasn't good. Silverstar had wanted Duskpaw to join StoneClan, and she was furious when he had agreed to join PondClan.

If Silverstar was angry enough she could attack PondClan, but Dewstar and her cats were well prepared for any attacks. Dewstar wasn't that worried about Silverstar anyways since the real threat was from FlowerClan.

Dewstar had been ignoring how rude Icestar was until now, but this time she had gone too far. How dare that cat accuse PondClan of planning something horrible! She had no-

Dewstar looked up as she noticed that some of her Clanmates were staring at her. Her pelt was fluffed up and she tried to calm her anger. The Clan didn't need to know how upset she was about Icestar's accusations.

Dewstar quickly summoned Palefur and Blossompool to her den to discuss FlowerClan. She turned to Blossompool first.

"Do you think Bluewing was lying about her vision?" Blossompool looked surprised at the question but still answered.

"A medicine cat wouldn't lie about a vision from StarClan."

"A leader would," Palefur said, sitting down in the den. Blossompool's eyes widened at his comment, but she stayed quiet.

"I mean, we lie about how hungry are in Leafbare. Why wouldn't Icestar lie about the vision of it helps her Clan?" Palefur continued.

"Messages from StarClan are not something to lie about!"

Blossompool's pelt prickled. "And it won't help FlowerClan if Icestar starts a war! Their Clan has been here for barely a moon!"

"So she wouldn't have any reason to lie. Maybe they didn't understand the meaning of the vision?" Dewstar paced around the two cats, struggling to keep her eyes open after being awake for almost two days. She hadn't slept last night because they had been trying to find out more about Sunpebble's death.

"Maybe, but she didn't tell us what the dream actually was, so we don't know what the message could be." Blossompool's fur smoothed down.

"What if it was a warning from StarClan? We could be in danger." Palefur's yellow eyes lit up with fear for a moment.

"If PondClan was in danger StarClan wouldn't have sent the dream to FlowerClan," Blossompool said, trying to reassure the tom.

"Maybe if we got more information about the dream from Bluewing we could figure out the true meaning." Blossompool and Palefur nodded. "Palefur, organize a patrol to go to FlowerClan with me. Make sure, Blossompool, that you go with us. It will seem less threatening."

The two cats left Dewstar alone in the leader's den. She watched as a few days went out for some night hunting, then she settled down into her nest and slept without dreams.

***

"Blossompool, Mouseclaw, Pebblespot, Rivershine, Spottedflower, we're going on a patrol to FlowerClan with Dewstar." The cats that Palefur has summoned gathered near the entrance and when Dewstar joined them they set off towards FlowerClan.

"So, why are we going to FlowerClan?" Rivershine asked Dewstar.

"I need to ask her about the vision."

"You mean we're going to walk into the camp of the Clan that just accused us of doing something horrible with a bunch of fully trained warriors," Rivershine said, as his sister Pebblespot nudged

him with her shoulder.

"You shouldn't talk to Dewstar like that. It's disrespectful." The white and black she-cat said as Rivershine turned towards her.

Soon they arrived at FlowerClan's camp. Icestar approached them and most of the other acts in the camp ignored them after glancing at the group.

Bluewing padded out of a small den in the corner of the camp and walked up to Icestar. The blue-gray she-cat was quite small compared to the white cat beside her.

"Hello, Dewstar. What brings you to FlowerClan?" Icestar mewed.

"We've come to discuss the vision that you mentioned at the gathering." Icestar's yellow eyes lit up with anger as Dewstar talked.

"I've told you everything that you need to know." Frostflight padded up to Icestar and sat down next to her. She opened her mouth to speak, most likely to yell about how Dewstar should trust FlowerClan to interpret the vision, but Icestar cut her off with a glare.

"Clearly not, since we know absolutely nothing about this vision that is important for peace between our Clans." Dewstar was able to keep her voice calm, but the mere presence of Frostflight was enough to make Dewstar angry.

"As I said at the gathering, FlowerClan has already interpreted the vision and we don't need PondClan trying to do everything for us." Bluewing looked nervously towards the group of PondClan cats as Icestar talked.

"Yeah and-" Icestar covered Frostflight's mouth with her tail before she could say anything else.

"Shut up, Frostflight! Leave us alone before I banish you!" Icestar glared at the gray she-cat. Frostflight grumbled but did as she was told.

"As I was saying, we have nothing to discuss. Now leave." Icestar

started walking away before Dewstar could even think of a response. The PondClan cats reluctantly walked back to PondClan. The group was silent throughout the journey, but their pelts were bristling with anger.

Dewstar couldn't understand why Icestar was being so stubborn. The other leaders would at least talked about the vision with Dewstar, even if they would stick to their own view in the end. At least, they would have before today. Lightningstar *was* acting very strange at the gathering, and Silverstar seemed very angry about FlowerClan's interpretation of the vision. It was very strange how Silverstar was defending PondClan more than Dewstar was.

Dewstar glanced at Palefur and suddenly made a decision. Since FlowerClan thought they were out to destroy the other Clans PondClan would have to prove them wrong. They didn't need to destroy all the Clans.

They only needed to destroy FlowerClan.

Chapter 12 - Silverstar

Silverstar woke up as the cave was lit up with sunlight. She hadn't had any dreams. Why hadn't StarClan spoken to her?

She mumbled a few things to herself, the padded out of the cave. Her bushed up tail swished behind her as she climbed over the large rocks that led down the mountain.

Silverstar admired the rolling hills and beautiful trees of her territory. It was clear to her why Mousestar had chosen this part of the forest for StoneClan. There was plenty of shade, but still, a few sunny patches, plus the large rocks scattered across the land were perfect for cats bathing in the sunlight.

Silverstar got lost in her thoughts as she walked along the well-worn path, calmed by the chirping of the birds and the soft splashing of fish in PondClan's streams.

As soon as she walked into camp her calmness dissolved into chaos.

Her Clanmates were running around the camp, obviously frightened by something. Ivyshade was shuffling her kits into the nursery, while the younger apprentices tried their best to quickly strengthen the nursery walls. Warriors were guarding every possible entrance to the camp, though some of them seemed to be missing.

"What happened?" Silverstar asked Leafpelt, the first warrior who approached her.

"We spotted a fox just outside camp, it smelled really strongly of cat blood. We think the cat scent on it smelled like RainClan, but we don't know."

"How close was it to the camp?" Silverstar asked, walking with the she-cat to the main entrance

"It could have destroyed the camp walls without stretching its

foreleg out at all." Leafpelt mewed, her fur spiking up.

A few of the warriors greeted Silverstar quietly as she walked up to the entrance, and then a fearful silence fell over the camp. Clouds began to cover the sky and rain sprinkled over the cats.

Silverstar jumped slightly as the missing cats emerged from the forest. The group consisted of Mouseclaw, Stormheart, Russetblaze, and Flowershine.

"We couldn't find the fox," Mouseclaw said, causing most of the cats to cast nervous glances into the forest.

Though the fox scent was starting to fade, StoneClan went through the rest of the day in a very paranoid state. Silverstar felt slightly disconnected from her Clan because she hadn't seen the creature. She wasn't filled with fear at the mention of it like her clanmates. And so she was able to go through her day more normally than the others.

She padded into the medicine den, eager to discuss StarClan's silence with Berryfall.

The tabby looked up nervously as Silverstar walked in, clearly on edge from the threat of the fox like the rest of the Clan.

"Hello, Silverstar. How are you today?" Berryfall said, sweeping dried herbs into a hole in the cave wall.

"Well, I'm haven't been that well since I found out that our camp was almost attacked by a fox."

"Oh, yeah..."

"Other than that, when I went to the Moonstone nobody appeared to speak to me. StarClan was completely silent." Silverstar mewed, examining the herbs stored in the cave. When she was a kit she had wanted to be a medicine cat, but after spending a moon in the medicine den after her accident she had decided against it.

"That's strange...they've been talking to all the medicine cats. Didn't you just have a vision a moon ago?"

"Oh, yeah!" Silverstar said, thinking back to said vision.

"Before you say anything, FlowerClan is NOT the problem."

"Ok, but who was that she-cat? Have you ever seen a red cat with white paws and a black back in any of the clans?" Silverstar had scanned the crowd at the gathering but had seen no sign of the cat from her vision.

"The forest you described sounds like the Dark Forest, you know, from the elder's tales." Silverstar hadn't thought of that. In fact, she hadn't thought about any of the elder's tales for seasons.

"The only cat the elders talked about that was actually in the Dark Forest was One-Eye. How did this cat end up here?" Silverstar flicked her tail, sensing that the answer was so close and yet she was being so stupid.

"The description sounds vaguely familiar, maybe you should check with Milkbreeze and see what they know?"

"That's a good idea. Thanks, Berryfall!" Silverstar walked out of the den and made her way to where Milkbreeze was telling a story to a group of cats.

"Hello, Silverstar. What brings you to my part of the camp?" Milkbreeze said after he had finished his story and the cats had walked away.

"Do you know of any cats that have dark red fur, white paws, and I think a black back?" Silverstar's memory of her vision was starting to fade and she wasn't sure about some of the details anymore.

"That lines up with what I was told of Redstar, but why do you ask?"

"It was just a random memory of the elder's tales from my childhood, nothing that interesting." Milkbreeze nodded, then padded over to the fresh-kill pile to select his dinner. Silverstar walked back to the medicine den and was greeted by a slightly less nervous Berryfall.

"So what did you find out?"

"Well, he told me that the description reminded him of Redstar-"

"Redstar?!" Berryfall's eyes widened and he raised one eyebrow. "But she went to StarClan!"

"That's what I thought, too. I don't think she ever did anything to warrant being in the Dark Forest. I mean, she founded PondClan AND RainClan."

"...What did she do to get kicked out of the other Clans?"

"...I don't believe I know. One version was murder, the other was not believing in StarClan, there was even one where she had a half clan relationship! Wow, we really don't have her story straight." Berryfall's face was growing increasingly worried, which only made Silverstar's fears of her vision stronger. How could she have not recognized the founder of two Clans?! Why was Redstar in the Dark Forest? Was she really there?

Silverstar didn't even know if the vision was from StarClan or something much eviler.

Chapter 13 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar felt vaguely numb for a few Sunrises after Blossomfern's death. Her deputy had resigned and a queen had died on the same day. Was StarClan being especially cruel to their Clan for some reason? She couldn't think of anything they had done wrong.

She wandered into the pine forest, hoping to get away from her grief for a while. The pine needles bent under her golden paws as she made her way to a large tree near a stream. She had always wanted to climb to the top of the tree since she was an apprentice, but she had never been able to. Well, she thought, today is the day!

She crouched at the base of the tree and leaped up, digging her claws into the bark. Sap dripped onto her paws, but she was determined to resist the urge to lick it off.

She jumped onto a low branch after clawing her way up the tree for a few minutes and looked up the tree trunk. She could see the sky through the leaves and she clawed her way to the next branch, which was only a tail length above her.

She could smell that a cat had recently climbed up the tree, but the smell of pine was too strong for her to discern who it was. She prepared to leap to the next branch by crouching down, but a pile of pine needles was thrown down onto her before she could jump.

She looked up and a white and gray tom was looking down at her in horror from a few branches up.

"Oops! I'm really sorry, Lightningstar! I didn't know you were up here!" Frostfeather said as Lightningstar shook her fur out to get rid of the pine needles.

"It's fine, pine needles never hurt any cat." Lightningstar leaped up to the closest branch, then onto Frostfeather's branch. "So, why are you up here?"

"I just needed a break from being a medicine cat. I can't seem to remember anything from my training! I keep messing up..." Frostfeather looked down at his paws.

"I'm sure you'll get the hang of things. You've made it this far, haven't you?"

"I just don't think I'm ready to be a full medicine cat." Frostfeather picked at the bark, sending chipped off pieces falling to the ground below.

"Cherryfrost wouldn't have given you your medicine cat name unless she was completely sure you could handle it. She's been my medicine cat for the majority of the time I've been leader, and I've never seen her make a mistake." Of course, Lightningstar was lying, but it seemed to make Frostfeather feel better.

"Yay! I'm going to be the best medicine cat this Clan has ever seen! I'll be-" The excited cat suddenly lost all of his cheerfulness. "I mean, thank you for the advice Lightningstar. I'm going to return to the medicine den now."

As Frostfeather jumped quickly down the tree Lightningstar peeked through the branches to the ground. Cherryfrost was walking towards the tree, her tail lashing angerly. When Frostfeather reached the ground she started yelling at him and Lightningstar strained her ears against the wind. She could barely hear what she was saying.

"How dare you disobey me! No gatherings for four moons!" Frostfeather nodded, clearly used to Cherryfrost's anger after being apprenticed to her for many moons.

They headed off towards the camp and Lightningstar was left alone with her thoughts. She stared at the stormy sky, suddenly quite worried about the FlowerClan and PondClan situation.

Two Clans going to war was never a good thing. Of course, there had never been a war in the Clan's short history, but just the border skirmishes were dreadful.

Fortunately, RainClan had almost always been peaceful with their neighbors, and Lightningstar would never dream of starting a war that would harm one of her Clanmates. If she remembered correctly, she had never started a fight during her leadership.

Her mind wandered to Stormstar, her predecessor. The confident leader had had some strange rules for the Clan. Everyone was forbidden to enter the leader's den or sit on the fallen tree, even the deputy and only when kits were three and a quarter moons old were they allowed to eat shrew. There was no reason for most of the rules.

Maybe he was slightly insane. StarClan knows how he managed to become a leader. Even his death was peculiar.

It was a few moments after the battle with PondClan. He had climbed up on to the fallen tree and immediately toppled over onto the sharp rocks lining the entrance to the camp, impaling himself.

It turns out he had suffered a leg injury during the battle and his leg had buckled when he jumped. Why had StarClan decided at this moment to end his strange reign as leader, Lightningstar didn't know, but she couldn't say she wasn't glad.

"Lightningstar? Lightningstar!" Lightningstar was snapped out of her thoughts by Marigoldtail calling for her.

"What?"

"Why in StarClan's name are you all the way up there? I need to talk to you!" Lightningstar leaped down the branches that she had worked so hard to climb up slowly, sad that her alone time had been cut short.

"What did you want to talk about?"

"Follow me." The golden she-cat led Lightningstar through the forest to the edge of the Star Field and stopped at a large cave carved into the side of highstones.

"What's wrong with the cave?"

"It smells so strongly of foxes...and with the fox attack on Blossomfern I think we need to get the Clan to exterminate the foxes." Lightningstar peered into the den, trying to see through the darkness.

"I think that's a good idea. We can't let the Clan lose any more cats." Lightningstar mewed, turning away from the cave.

The sisters headed back to the camp to fetch the clan, talking about almost nothing. When they arrived Lightningstar quickly jumped on to the fallen tree and started giving her speech.

Chapter 14 - Dewstar

Dewstar glared at the group of rogues as they walked noisily just outside the PondClan borders. Any one of them could have been in the group that had murdered her beloved deputy. Perhaps even all of them.

As they disappeared from view Dewstar found herself digging her claws deep into the ground, which was a very strange feeling. Usually, she didn't get so visibly angry. Maybe it was just because of Sunpebble's death, though that was more than half a moon ago.

She headed back to camp after finishing her walk through the forest. She had needed to clear her head. Icestar hadn't done anything aggressive since the gathering, Dewstar was still unnerved by the idea of a kittypet leading a Clan. No Clan who wanted to be respected would take in a kittypet as a leader.

Of course, FlowerClan had just been a group of rogues barely a day earlier. Perhaps rogues view kittypets as on the same level as them.

Dewstar arrived at the camp and grabbed a mouse from the fresh-kill pile. As she began to eat she noticed that her vision was becoming blurry in some corners. She blinked a few times, but her vision stayed the same. She chalked it up to the fact that earlier a dust cloud had floated into her face, and tried to ignore it.

She finished her meal and padded into the leaders den to sleep, even though it was barely sun high. She felt incredibly tired, and her vision seemed worse than before.

After debating with herself for a bit, she finally decided to go to the medicine den.

"Blossompool?" Dewstar looked wildly around the medicine den, but she couldn't see the cheerful she-cat. She walked quickly around the camp and when she didn't see her, Dewstar padded over to Palefur to see where Blossompool has disappeared to. She could

hardly focus on him with her vision so messed up.

"Oh, she doesn't tell me where shes going when she leaves. Usually don't see her leave, actually. You know, with exit in her den helping her out." Palefur smiled and after Dewstar dismissed him he walked over to the fresh kill pile to get something to eat.

Dewstar walked back to the medicine den to wait for Blossompool. She wished the medicine cat would hurry up. Being sick make Dewstar feel vulnerable and she wanted to be cured as soon as possible. She sat there for what seemed like moons, but couldn't have been more than a hour.

Finally, the tortoiseshell cat Dewstar had been looking for walked back through the secret entrance.

"Hello, Dewstar. You look worried. Is something wrong? Did Bluewing have another vision?"

"No, why do you ask?" Dewstar shook out her fur, trying to look less sickly.

"Oh, the FlowerClan situation has just been on my mind a lot recently, I guess. Why did you come to my den?"

"I think I'm sick. My vision is blurry and I feel very tired." Blossompool nodded and began to look through the medicine den for the right herbs.

"Where were you? When I was looking for you, I mean." Dewstar wanted to slam her head into the dirt floor of the den. Why couldn't she just be her normal respectable self who could form a sentence when she was sick?

"You were looking for me? I'm sorry, I would have been here faster if I had known."

"So where were you?"

"Well, I woke up and I could sense StarClan drawing me to the Starfield. It was strange because-" Dewstar cut Blossompool off.

"What's the Star Field?" Dewstar wasn't aware of any places that could be called that in her territory, there were barely any fields. The ones they had were small and swampy from the streams.

"It's a field in RainClan territory that has the most beautiful view of Silverpelt. You should really go there, Dewstar. It's amazing, especially during the full moon."

"Hmm...Maybe we'll take a detour to it after the next gathering. Just the two of us, though. Taking the entire clan to the middle of enemy territory doesnt seem like a good idea." Blossompool dropped the healing herbs next to Dewstar and she quickly ate them.

"It's really far into RainClan territory, so that's probably a good idea."

"Hmm...if it's that far I don't think anyone should be going there, even you." Dewstar had very strict rules on when her classmates could go into enemy territory.

"Remember, medicine cats can roam throughout all territories." Blossompool said, quoting the warrior code almost perfectly.

"I know, it's just...never mind. Continue your story."

"So, I was called to the Star Field by StarClan. Which was strange, because it was daytime. I went there anyways, and I met Tigershine. She's an ancestor of mine from the very beginning of the clans. The visit went normally and we were just walking around and talking like always. Then she was gone. I stayed there for hours, waiting for her to come back. I still don't know where she went so suddenly."

"Have any StarClan cats ever disappeared like that before?" Maybe this is a normal thing, Dewstar thought, but the cats always come back?

"Its never happened before. To me, at least."

"Maybe there was some StarClan emergency?" Dewar tried to think of any events that would warrant StarClan intervention.

"I suppose there could have been an emergency..." They sat in silence for a few moments, not knowing what else to say.

"So, have any of the kits shown some medicine cat potential?" Dewstar knew that Blossompool would be the main medicine cat for many more moons, but having two would be good for the Clan.

"None of them has shown any particular talent for healing, but Flowerkit was certainly the most excited."

Dewstar was feeling much better after the herbs had started to work. She stood up and shook out her long fur, stiff from sitting down for so long. She looked outside and saw that it was nearly sundown.

"Well, I'm sure we'll talk later. Bye!" Blossompool nodded goodbye to her and Dewstar padded towards the fresh-kill pile.

Dewstar's talk with Blossompool had been delightful but she felt like something was off about it. She chalked it up to her being sick, but she still couldn't shake the feeling.

Chapter 15 - Silverstar

A paw jabbed into Silverstar's shoulder, waking her up from her sleep. No dreams again, she thought. Her brother Stormheart was standing over her.

The sound of her Clanmates arguing filled her ears and she went outside to investigate. Most of the warriors were gathered near the entrance and and when Silverstar walked closer she could hear that they were arguing over what to do about a fox.

"What's going on?" Silverstar asked as the cats turned to look at her. She blinked a few times in an effort to wake herself up more.

"What's going on is that some cats are being mousebrains!" Icenose said, glaring at Flowershine, who was across from him. The black she-cat's fur spiked up with anger and the two cats continued bickering. Their clanmates did the same, even louder than before.

"Will you all shut up?!" Milkbreeze screeched from the elder's den. "Some cats are actually trying to get some sleep!"

Ivyshade's two kits, Firekit and Boulderkit, had been woken up by the noise by now and their mother was glaring furiously at the arguing cats.

"What are you arguing about, anyways?" Silverstar mewed, finally smelling the fox scent coming from the forest.

"Well, this mousebrain wants to charge right into the-" Shadowpool cut Flowershine off and stepped in front of her.

"What our sister is trying to say is that they were arguing over whether or not to go after that fox from a few days ago, because apparently it showed up again last night."

Silverstar sighed. Ever since she was a kit Flowershine had always made a point to argue with almost every cat in the clan.

"How close did the fox get?"

"How close to what?" Icenose mewed, still glaring at Flowershine.

"To the camp, you foxheart! What else could it be?!" Ivyshade, who had been trying to convince her kits to go back to sleep, suddenly turned back and let out an angry hiss.

"If you have to argue, fine, but some use such insults in front of my one moon old kits!" Flowershine's eyes widened and she nodded quickly.

Ivyshade glared at her for a few more seconds until she turned away and shuffled Firekit and Boulderkit back into the nursery.

"It was just as close as last time." Flowershine said quietly, looking at her paws. Icenose looked at her with wide eyes. He must have been surprised that Flowershine, a very confident cat, was now embarrassed and shy because a queen had yelled at her.

"Right up to the camp then?" The fox was an immediate danger to the Clan. Silverstar personally would take Icenose's side of this debate, but she could see where Flowershine was coming from. "We'll need to decide what to do quickly."

"How about we vote?" Berryfall said, standing in the entrance to the medicine den.

"Everyone that wants to go after the fox stand near the medicine den. Everyone who doesn't go to the elder's den." As Clan leader Silverstar didn't get to vote, but it made her Clanmates feel included in decisions, so she put up with not having her voice heard.

The cats walked to their respective places and even Ivyshade decided to vote. Silverstar quickly counted the number of cats for each side and even rechecked her numbers.

"This side has more cats." Silverstar said, pointing towards the cats next to the medicine cat den. "We will be going after the fox after the next patrol gets back."

A few cats went out on patrol and left the others to wait. The cats

who had voted not to attack the fox were allowed to skip the attack, but many of them decided to go out of loyalty to their Clan.

By the time the patrol got back StoneClan was prepared for any outcome. The medicine den was stocked with herbs and everyone had been reminded of basic fighting skills.

They followed the strong fox scent through the forest. They were getting close to the RainClan border and Silverstar wondered if they were also having a fox problem. They hadn't reported anything at the last gathering.

"We're getting awfully close to the RainClan border..." Lionpaw said when the group was a couple foxlengths away from the end of their territory.

"The foxes are a threat to StoneClan's safety. I'm sure Lightningstar will let us cross the border just this once."

The foxscent led directly into RainClan territory and Silverstar took a deep breath before stepping over the border. She hoped she was right to lead her Clan into RainClan territory.

Surprisingly they came across no RainClan cats as they traveled along the scent trail towards Highstones. Surely some cat would smell the many enemy cats travelling through their territory?

They reached a large field and could see that Highstones was where the fox had gone. The scent ended in a cave in the side of Highstones and smelled so strongly of fox that Silverstar had to step a tailength back to get some fresh air.

She was about to send some cats into the cave when almost a dozen cats burst out of the forest behind them. It was RainClan.

"Silverstar? What are you doing here?" Lightningstar mewed, her Clanmates' fur prickling behind her. RainClan had brought less cats than StoneClan.

"Well, there have been several fox attacks lately and we decided to track them down. I hope you don't mind that we're on your territory."

"We have also been through some fox attacks. One of our warriors was killed...Perhaps we can work together to fight the foxes?" Silverstar scanned the group of RainClan cats, but she couldn't figure out which warrior was missing.

"We would have a much better chance that way. Does anyone know how many foxes there are?" There had apparently been at least three attacks, but they could all have been the same fox.

Lightningstar looked at her Clan and had just started to shake her head when six foxes jumped out of the cave.

Chapter 16 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar ducked as a fox leaped over her. How were there so many? Even with two Clans worth of cats they seemed to be losing the battle.

The foxes were bigger than them and had snuck up on the cats, but mentors taught apprentices fighting techniques for moons and many cats there were seasoned warriors.

A few cats were still frozen with shock until Lightningstar yowled an order to attack.

She joined Spruceclaw in fighting one of the foxes. StoneClan and RainClan clearly had very different battle tactics. Despite that Lightningstar and Spruceclaw managed to work together to give the fox a few good scratches.

She jumped up to scratch the fox's head, but got distracted by Silverstar yelling something. Lightningstar turned towards her and the fox must have moved because Lightningstar crashed into the ground.

She landed hard on her shoulder and struggled to stand up for a moment. She shook out her fur and prepared to rejoin the battle, but cats were already running away. Silverstar had yelled for the cats to retreat.

They had lost the battle.

***

A few days later, Lightningstar woke up to the sound of screaming. It's Rosepaw again, isn't it? She thought as she and Pebblelight stuck their heads out of the leader's den. It was customary in RainClan that if a leader takes a mate they share the leader's den.

Several cats were gathered around the apprentice den, trying to

calm a screeching Rosepaw. The black she-cat had been having nightmares ever since her mother's death. Her brother seemed to be coping better, but Bramblepaw hadn't been on a patrol in that area of the forest since it had happened.

Lightningstar looked at the family that had been torn apart by these foxes and knew she had to do something.

***

As Lightningstar walked towards the pond she knew that PondClan would agree to help. Dewstar was a sensible cat, after all.

She walked along the path RainClan takes to the gathering when PondClan hosts it. Dewstar was sitting near the fresh kill pile, chatting with Palefur.

"Dewstar? Can I speak to you?" The brown tabby nodded and they headed into the forest to talk.

"RainClan had been having a fox problem...StoneClan, too. We tried to fight the foxes, but they're abnormally fierce. Is there any way your warriors can fight with us, even just a few cats?" Lightningstar would do anything to get rid of the foxes. Her Clan had suffered enough between losing Blossomfern and the serious injuries inflicted during the attacks.

"Where have the foxes been spotted?" Dewstar's pelt was prickling with anger. Throughout her leadership, there had been several devastating fox attacks in PondClan and Dewstar seemed to jump at any opportunity to take a dent out of their population as revenge.

"A bit far from my camp, but Silverstar said one of them camp right up to the entrance on multiple occasions. They live in a cave near Highstones." Lightningstar could see that Dewstar was thinking carefully about the information, so she waited for a moment for the tabby to speak.

"Was anyone killed?" Dewstar hesitated before speaking.

"...Yes, Blossomfern. Her kits...I'm afraid they may live the rest of their lives in fear of the foxes if we don't do something."

Lightningstar had to fight to keep her voice steady. They HAD to do something.

"...I don't think PondClan can help."

"Why?! This is a threat to the Clans! More cats could- no, WILL die if we don't drive them out!" Lightningstar already knew she would lose the arguement. Dewstar was a sensible cat, sure, but was very stubborn when it came to deciding what was in PondClan's best interest.

"It is only a threat to RainClan and StoneClan. Where did you say they lived? Highstones? This camp is almost the farthest point from there!" Lightningstar could see where she was coming from with her arguement, but she still pressed on.

"The foxes will hunt down warriors until all of our Clans have been reduced to rubble. Do you really want to wait until the foxes are tearing apart your camp's walls to do something?!" Dewstar seemed to think about that for a moment, and her pelt smoothed out.

"Lightningstar, the needs of PondClan are my top priority. We've recently had a horrible bout of greencough and we lost our deputy. Our only apprentice was a kittypet only a half moon ago. We cannot risk fighting this battle." Lightningstar's eyes widened. Dewstar was the least likely cat to admit when her Clan was struggling. Every gathering the tabby said that her Clan was doing great when the other Clans had no fresh kill pile. Lightningstar was filled with sympathy for Dewstar and she felt a tinge of guilt for getting angry at her for protecting her Clan.

"Oh...Is there anyone you can spare?"

"Everyone's busy preparing for leaf-bare or doing patrols. The pond seems to be freezing early this year."

"Well, I'll ask Icestar at the next gathering. They seem to be settling in nicely." Dewstar started to say something, but clearly thought it better to keep quiet. She nodded and Lightningstar started to walk calmly away from PondClan.

"Wait!" Lightningstar looked back at Dewstar. "I'm not sure Icestar can be trusted yet. Be careful with what you say to her." Lightningstar looked at her with wide eyes, alarmed by her sudden declaration of mistrust.

"M-may StarClan light your path."

"May StarClan light your path." Dewstar walked back through the entrance and Lightningstar was left alone in the forest.

She suddenly remembered what she had come there to do. Her Clan was expecting her to come back with the good news of PondClan joining them to attack the foxes.

What could she tell them now? That the other Clans didn't think their torment was important enough? She thought about going to FlowerClan, but Dewstar's warning stuck in her head.

She walked slowly back to her camp, her heart heavy with the fact that she had failed her Clan.

Chapter 17 - Dewstar

Dewstar looked sadly back at Lightningstar as the golden she-cat walked away, her tail drooping. Dewstar had wanted so much to help, but she had been taught by Splashstar that if she endangered PondClan cats with a decision that they didn't benefit from, she had failed as a leader.

Splashstar had been very wise, so Dewstar always tried to apply her advice in any way she could. She hadn't been doing that lately.

Dewstar thought about running after Lightningstar and telling her PondClan would help in any way they could, but something stopped her.

She saw a flash of Splashstar's white and ginger pelt, but when she looked around there was no sign of the long dead cat.

She brushed it off as another symptom of the illness she was going through and eventually walked into the forest for some hunting. She was starting to feel better, but she had lost a life a few days earlier. Now, she only had one life left.

It was a strange sensation, knowing she could drop dead at any moment after so long of feeling invincible.

As Dewstar stepped into the forest the wind picked up and almost knocked her over. She shivered as she regained her balance, fluffing up her fur against the cold. It's almost leaf-bare, she thought.

Dewstar scented mouse through the wind and was stalking forward when she spotted a cat staring at her from behind a tree. It was Splashstar!

Dewstar had never been visited by a StarClan cat outside of her dreams. She bounded over to the white and ginger she-cat, dipping her head when she reached her.

"Hello, Splashstar. I am honored to be visited by my past leader." Splashstar nodded, wrapping her thin tail around her paws.

"You made a good decision earlier." Dewstar puffed out her chest in pride. Splashstar didn't give her praise often when she had been alive, so Dewstar always had to work her hardest in an attempt to earn it.

"Thank you. You trained me well for these kinds of things."

"Of course, I did. I had to make sure you would fill my paw steps as leader. As I always say, a weak leader makes a weak Clan." Dewstar's leader training had been harsh, but it had shaped each decision she had made during her leadership. It had shaped them a little too much, some cats might say.

"What do you think of FlowerClan?" It might be good to get a StarClan cat's point of view, Dewstar thought.

"Well, they're hardly a real clan. Their leader is a kittypet! And she has the nerve to go around, spreading lies about our Clan!? You should have clawed her throat out when you had the chance."

"The other Clans seem to trust them... At least, Lightningstar seemed to trust them enough to ask for their help."

"Lightningstar is the leader of those RainClan scum. They hardly deserve to be a Clan either. I would take the kittypet over them in a heartbeat." Dewstar's heart seemed to stop. She knew that Splashstar had clashed with RainClan during her leadership, but she never knew that she felt so intensely about them.

"You shouldn't speak about them that way. We haven't fought with RainClan in moons and the battles we did have always ended in peace." Splashstar nodded reluctantly.

"Well, PondClan will always clash with RainClan. It's just how our Clans are. Why do you think nobody objects when we suggest fighting RainClan? Our Clan cares more about showing RainClan we are strong than their own happiness." Splashstar walked slowly around Dewstar in a wide circle, her starry pelt glittering. "You

could suggest any rule you wanted after a PondClan victory over RainClan and they couldn't care less."

"All of PondClan's rules are fair and just. Clearly, my clanmates care enough to stop the leader from making up silly ones."

"Oh, really? They let me ban the leaders of PondClan from having mates, remember? No one even questioned it until you came along." Dewstar had changed that rule early in her leadership.

"So? That rule would seem sensible to most cats."

"You changed it so you could take a mate, but no one ended up loving you!" Splashstar smiled widely. Dewstar had never seen her be this cruel. Had she been like this when she was alive?

"I don't need a mate. Why are we talking about this, anyways? All I want to know is if I made the right decision not to help Lightningstar. With a reason this time, not just because they made you mad." Splashstar nodded. She seemed to grow as she walked around Dewstar.

Dewstar's vision grew blurry until everything went black. The darkness faded into Highstones, particularly one of the caves on the side. Cats were gathered around it, their pelts prickling.

Foxes jumped out of the cave, landing on the smallest cats. Wait, they were kits! The entirety of both RainClan and StoneClan was gathered around the cave, fighting for their lives.

Dewstar watched in horror as cats were ripped apart in front of her. She flinched as a kit's throat was slashed open, the body flung into an ever growing pile of dead cats.

She closed her eyes and when she opened them the ground was wet with blood, but the bodies were gone. Splashstar was standing next to her.

"Why did you show me that!?" Dewstar sobbed, digging her claws into the ground.

"This is what will happen. All of RainClan and StoneClan will be

destroyed. Their territories will be be free."

"Free for what...? Nothing good can come out of the death of this many cats!" Dewstar struggled to keep her voice steady.

"Free for PondClan to take, of course! Think of all that prey, wasted on inferior cats. If you ignore those fox hearts now, you will get all of it and more."

"No, I can't do that. RainClan and StoneClan have done nothing wrong. Those battles were pointless, most of them were our fault. Even during my reign we've wrongly fought with them." Dewstar raised her voice, trying to talk some sense into the StarClan cat.

"And who do you think caused those battles? Me! I've influenced so many battles over the moons. I've whispered instructions in your ears so many times, you've gotten used to being furious over every little thing by now."

Dewstar thought back to all those times she has caught herself fuming over something small another Clan had done. Could it really be all Splashstar's fault?

"I will not just sit back and watch them all die!"

"I thought you wanted to make me proud? To be like me? You would be welcomed into my part of StarClan with the highest honors if you make this simple choice..." Dewstar thought about it for a moment.

"...NO! I never want to be like you! Now that I know what you really want, you can rest assured knowing I will erase every mention of you from the Clan!" Splashstar's eyes widened, but she still had a smug look on her face. "If you EVER appear in MY Clan again, I will make sure you are sent to the Dark Forest as soon as I arrive in StarClan! Now leave before I walk straight to the Moonstone to talk to StarClan!"

Splashstar was still smiling. Her white and ginger pelt melted into the forest, but her striking green eyes were still there for a moment, glaring at the cat in front of her.

Then Dewstar was left alone in the silent forest.

Chapter 18 - Silverstar

Silverstar sprung out of her nest, still breathing heavily from her nightmare. It was almost the same dream as before, but it seemed to have scared her twice as much. Maybe it was that new cat looking down at her...

Redstar had been a great cat. She had founded the Clans, she helped make the new Warrior Code, she'd done nothing to deserve spending eternity in the Dark Forest.

Maybe it was some other cat? Even though she was alone in the den, Silverstar shook her head.

There were plenty of red cats in the Clans. Russetblaze, Cherryfrost of RainClan, Cherryheart from PondClan to name a few, but none of them had the black back and white paws that were so clear in the dream.

Silverstar tried to shake off the fear that the dream had brought her and walked out of her den into the leaf-fall sun. The Clan was still on edge after their defeat, but with no fox attacks StoneClan was starting to loosen up a little.

Silverstar glanced at the fresh kill pile and saw that it was made up of only a couple mice. That made sense, the morning hunting patrols hadn't come back yet. She dipped her head to Spruceclaw as she walked into the sunny forest after completing some of her leader duties.

The wind was already starting to smell like leaf-fall, and as Silverstar padded along one of the many paths through the forest she noticed that some colorful leaves had already fallen.

The wind blew through her fur and Silverstar began walking quicker until she eventually started running. She sped through the forest, jumping over rocks and branches. She was having a great time! She was just running beside the PondClan boarder when she

stopped dead in her tracks.

Dewstar was arguing loudly with a StarClan cat. A StarClan cat Silverstar recognized! It was the cat looking down at her in her dream.

Silverstar blinked a few times, horrified that her dream was starting to come true. Were the Clans doomed?

She realized she hadn't been listening to the arguement, so she pushed aside her worries and forced herself to pay attention.

"I will not just sit back and watch them all die!"

"I thought you wanted to make me proud? To be like me? You would be welcomed into my part of StarClan with the highest honors if you make this simple choice."

Silverstar couldn't believe what she was hearing. How could a StarClan warrior want Dewstar to be so horrible?

"...No! I never want to be like you! Now that I know what you really want, you can rest assured knowing I will erase every mention of you from PondClan! If you EVER appear in MY Clan again, I will make sure you are sent to the Dark Forest as soon as I arrive in StarClan! Now leave before I walk straight to the Moonstone to talk to StarClan!"

The she-cat disappeared slowly and Silverstar waited a few moments before walking up to Dewstar, pretending she hadn't heard the conversation.

"Silverstar! PondClan can help with the foxes!" Dewstar said as soon as she saw the other leader, her tabby fur still prickling.

"I thought your Clan was too weak?" Lightningstar had stopped by her Clan before she had left for her walk and told her the news.

"...We are. I've just realized that that shouldn't mean I let cats get injured, or worse, killed by something we could of prevented." Dewstar paused for a moment, then puffed out her chest proudly. "PondClan is fully capable of helping our dear neighbors."

"I'm glad you changed your mind. I've been having the most horrible nightmares and I was thinking they could be linked to the foxes." Dewstar's ears pricked up and she sat down in the grass.

"Tell me about your nightmares." Silverstar hesitated for a moment, them decided that she could trust Dewstar. After all, most of the dream took place on PondClan's territory.

"It started next to the pond in your territory. I tried to walk on the ice, but I fell through. The bodies of all of the Clans were at the bottom of the pond, and my spirit left my body behind. Then I appeared in the Dark Forest, and a cat leaped at me, aiming its teeth at my throat." Dewstar nodded thoughtfully as Silverstar finished.

"Oh, and that white and ginger cat you were talking to was looking down at me when I was in the pond-" Silverstar wanted to scratch her own throat out. She knew Dewstar would be furious that she had been eavesdropping on her.

"You were listening to our conversation!?" Dewstar looked just as angry as when she had been arguing with the cat earlier, and Silverstar prepared herself to fight the tabby.

"How-" Dewstar seemed to think for a moment, then smoothed out her pelt. "I suppose I was being a bit loud."

Silverstar starred at her for a moment, then decided that the tabby didn't seem to want to attack her.

"Anyways, do you have a plan for the foxes?" Dewstar mewed, wrapping her tail over her paws.

"No, but I was thinking with your Clan fighting we would finally have a chance?"

"Well, to be honest, I don't know how much of a difference PondClan would make. We ARE pretty weak, I wasn't lying to get out of helping." Silverstar could see from Dewstar's face that she wasn't thrilled about admitting that her Clan was in trouble.

"I don't know what else we could do...lead a badger into their

home?" Silverstar had meant the suggestion as a joke, but Dewstar seemed to consider it for a few seconds.

"Hmm..." The two leaders stared at the ground. Silverstar didn't know what else they could do except fight, but that was turning out to be a horrible idea. Even her joke suggestion was better than leading her Clan into a fight they would most likely lose.

Silverstar thought about the tree line near the cave. Could they hide in them and pick off the foxes one by one? Dewstar looked up as Silverstar gasped.

She had the perfect plan.

Chapter 19 - Lightningstar

Lightningstar looked up from her mouse as Rosepaw refused another border patrol. She was growing quite worried about the black she-cat and her brother. They hadn't been out on border patrol since their mother's death.

The foxes hadn't been seen for half a moon, so Lightningstar thought that now was as good time as any to try and get them more involved with Clan life again.

After finishing her meal, Lightningstar padded over to the siblings, who were also eating.

"Wanna go on a walk?" The apprentices looked at each other with wide eyes, but they nodded. They finished their prey and joined Lightningstar for their walk.

Rosepaw and Bramblepaw gazed at the colorful leaves in wonder, and Lightningstar remembered that it was their first leaf-fall.

"Wow! This is so beautiful!" Rosepaw's mew was filled with delight. Her brother nodded in agreement.

"Just wait until you see it in leaf-bare! The trees glitter like Silverpelt!" Lightningstar stopped suddenly and shushed her companions. A mouse was a few fox lengths away, scanning the ground for food.

She fell into a hunting crouch, slowly making her way towards the mouse. She was careful to place her paws delicately back on the ground after each step, since the mouse could feel the vibrations of her paws before even smelling her scent.

She reached the point where she could easily pounce on the small creature and prepared herself for the jump. Lightningstar leaped, and landed right on the mouse. She bit its spine quickly, and was delighted to find that it had been a clean kill.

Lightningstar picked up the mouse and dropped it at Rosepaw and Bramblepaw's feet. Together, they scrapped earth over the prey so that they could come back to collect it later.

They walked through the forest for a while, talking and hunting what prey crossed their path.

"Lightningstar, is there any way to visit StarClan without going to the Moonstone?" Bramblepaw asked quietly. Lightningstar opened her mouth to ask why, but she stopped herself. Their mother had just died, it made sense that they would want to visit StarClan.

"Well, sometimes they choose to enter cat's dreams." Bramblepaw and Rosepaw seemed unsatisfied with her answer, so Lightningstar continued talking. "When I was an apprentice and a young warrior I would wish myself into StarClan sometimes...a lot, actually. "

"Wow! How did you figure out you could do that?" Rosepaw and Bramblepaw were now listening carefully to Lightningstar.

"I think any cat can do it, if their need to be in StarClan is strong enough." Her adventures through StarClan had put Lightningstar's life in danger, so she was hesitant to tell the apprentices how exactly how to wish themselves into StarClan.

"Why did you need to be in StarClan, Lightningstar?"

"My mother and brother had just died from red cough, and I wanted to see them." Images floated through Lightningstar's mind as she remembered what had happened after those deaths. Her claws slashing through Marigoldtail's golden pelt as they fought, the StarClan version of her mother screaming at her, her paw dissolving into stars as she watched.

She shook off those thoughts and turned her attention to the apprentices in front of her.

Rosepaw was just starting to say something when her eyes widened and she looked behind her fearfully. Lightningstar smelled fox scent, but she could tell that it was a few hours old.

Bramplepaw was now trying desperately to calm Rosepaw down.

The black she-cat was looking around wildly, her ears flattened and her eyes wide.

Bramplepaw looked up at Lightningstar and whispered that they should take his sister back to camp. Lightningstar nodded and she padded up to Rosepaw's side to help support the trembling she-cat.

They made it back to camp safely, taking extra care to make sure Rosepaw didn't trip on anything as they walked. Bramblepaw led his sister to the medicine den, attracting very little attention given that he was pretty much dragging his sobbing sister through the center of camp. The other cats were used to Rosepaw acting like this by now.

Lightningstar gazed at the siblings sadly, wishing she could do something to ease their grief. She was still thinking about her failed plan to help them when Pebblelight walked up to her.

"What's wrong?" Lightningstar must have had a sad look on her face. She tried to look happier.

"Oh, nothing. I'm just worried about Rosepaw and Bramblepaw..." Pebblelight nodded.

"Yeah, they do seem to be having a hard time. They probably just need some more time to get over Blossomfern's death."

"Wanna go on a walk?" Lightningstar figured that if she couldn't use her free time to help the siblings, she could use it to spend time with her mate.

Pebblelight agreed and they headed out into the pine forest, in the opposite direction of Lightningstar's earlier walk.

They didn't talk much, just appreciated each other's company and their beautiful surroundings. Lightningstar let her paws lead her through the familiar paths of her territory.

They were just walking over the hill that leads to Highstones when Pebblelight nudged Lightningstar with his shoulder. He was pointing with his tail towards the Fox Cave, which had been named by the Clan after the fox attack.

The two cats walked cautiously up to the cave, checking to make sure that the foxes were not going to sneak up on him. When Lightningstar got a few tail lengths from the cave, her mouth dropped open.

The cave was now blocked with huge logs, and when Lightningstar glanced behind her she knew that the logs had been rolled down the hill. She sniffed the logs, trying to figure out what cats had done this.

A fox muzzle snapped at her nose, and Lightningstar jumped back. The foxes were all trapped in the cave! She didn't want to put her muzzle near the logs again, but as she walked along the hill she scented StoneClan and PondClan.

Lightningstar and Pebblelight walked happily back to camp, eager to tell the Clan the good news.

Chapter 20 - Dewstar

Dewstar dug her claws into the slightly rotten tree bark, preparing to send it tumbling down the hill. She was a bit worried that the foxes would get through the wood, but it was barely rotten and leaf bare would soon drive away the small amount of prey that the foxes would catch in the cave, weakening them.

On Silverstar's signal, she worked with most of her Clan to start rolling the dead tree down the hill. They had to go slowly to make sure the tree actually blocked the cave.

Dewstar dug her back claws into the ground, stopping the tree from veering off course. It was the last tree needed to block the foxes in.

It took two whole Clans, but eventually they managed to close the gap with the log. The cats around Dewstar panted but she tried to breathe calmly through her nose as she turned to Silverstar.

"Are you sure this will block them in?" She said, testing the logs with one paw. They didn't move.

"StarClan themselves couldn't move those logs." Dewstar didn't think that was true, but she was reassured by Silverstar's confidence in her plan.

"Do the other Clans know about this yet?" There had been a couple days where Dewstar hadn't seen the Silver she-cat, and she wondered if the other Cland had refused their help.

"No, but I think Lightningstar will enjoy the surprise. Icestar, however, should probably be told."

"Yeah, she doesn't seem like the kind of cat to enjoy surprises." Dewstar bitterly remembered the way Icestar had accused PondClan of planning something terrible and stopping anyone from finding out what the vision was because she had already figured it out.

Well, to her credit, her Clanmate Frostflight had done most of the latter. Icestar was trying to protect the new Clan, and Frostflight just went a little over board.

"I can go and tell them, if you like." Dewstar wanted to share the good news with FlowerClan, but she was also curious to see if they still believed she was planning something.

"Are you sure? One of the apprentices would be happy to do it." Dewstar shook her head.

"Nah, it will be nice to share our triumph with FlowerClan." Silverstar gave her a nod, then turned to talk to Icenose.

Dewstar headed towards the newest Clan, slightly alert for any sign of Splashstar. FlowerClan territory was on the opposite side of the Clans' territory, so Dewstar would have quite a ways to walk.

She walked through RainClan's pine forest, the nearest territory to highstones. Dewstar didn't go near their camp, thinking they would find it hostile. She mainly kept to the RainClan/StoneClan border, which eventually merged into the PondClan/FlowerClan border.

She stepped into FlowerClan territory, instantly feeling that she wasn't welcome. The wind whistled past her ears sinisterly, making Dewstar's fur stand on end. She crept carefully into the territory, already hating the feeling of the dry ground beneath her paws. She just knew FlowerClan hated her and-

"Oh, hi Dewstar!" Dewstar turned to see Bluewing, the FlowerClan medicine cat, with a bundle of herbs beside her.

"Oh...hi. I'm here to speak with Icestar." Bluewing nodded and picked up her bundle of herbs from the ground.

"I'll walk with you, then. I need to take these back to camp, anyways." Her voice was slightly muffled by the plants.

"So, how are you liking Clan life?"

"Its great! The herbs grow so well here. I've always had an interest in healing, and now I have a chance to actually practice it." Dewstar

had heard that the territory was very good for growing herbs a lot from the StoneClan cats who used to live there.

"Were you a rogue or a kittypet before this?" Dewstar asked hesitantly.

"Well, technically I was a rogue, but I had run away from my housefolk only a moon earlier." Bluewing didn't seem at all sad that she had left her kittypet life.

"Ah." They had arrived at the FlowerClan camp. Dewstar had only been there once before, and it had changed a lot since then.

Colorful flowers had been placed around the camp, making the space seem more welcoming. Cats looked up happily as Dewstar and Bluewing walked inside.

Icestat walked out of a den, seemingly not surprised by Dewstar's presence. Icestar must have looked friendly to her Clan, but the look in her yellow eyes was telling a different story.

"Hello, why are you here?" Just like before, the FlowerClan cats didn't pay any attention to what their leader was doing.

"Have you had any fox attacks recently?" Icestar shook her head.

"We haven't seen any foxes since we arrived." That made some sense, PondClan hadn't seen any for moons as well.

"Well, there have been many fox attacks near RainClan and StoneClan." Dewstar took a deep breathe, pretending she couldn't see Icestar's bored expression. "Some cats have died and we blocked the entrance with logs."

"The entrance to what?"

"The foxes' cave near Highstones" Dewstar wanted to get through the story quickly and leave. Icestar was giving off more hostile vibes now.

"Ah. And why does this matter? To my Clan at least?" Dewstar was shocked for a second, then remembered that she had used the same

reasoning for not helping Lightningstar in the first place.

"Well, I just thought you would want to know about how StoneClan and PondClan has made the Clans a little safer."

"But why did you help, and not Lightningstar? Her Clan is far nearer to Highstones than your own." Dewstar had wondered that same thing herself. Why wasn't Lightningstar included in the plan?

"Sometimes all of the Clans aren't needed to fix something. Silverstar came to me with her plan and it didn't need any more cats."

"I'm sure it would have been easier with all of the Clans. But, then again, you cats have a habit of skipping over Clans when you need help." Dewstar's ears flattened.

"Well, when RainClan was being attacked, Lightningstar went to StoneClan for help, even though PondClan is technically closer. So it happens to all the Clans."

"That's interesting." Icestar had already turned to leave Dewstar as she spoke.

Dewstar took that as her cue to leave, gave Icestar a nod, then padded out of the camp. As she walked through FlowerClan, the cats smiled at her as they had when she had entered, but now the smiles seemed much more sinister.

She sped up, eager to get out of the Clan she was learning to hate.

Chapter 21 - Silverstar

Silverstar was back in PondClan territory, startled to find that the dreams hadn't stopped. She was still looking at the pond at this point, and she didn't know if her dream would let her choose not to go near it. Something felt wrong...

She soon got her answer, being slightly dragged towards the pond, the pull strengthening until she had the cling to the ground with her claws just so she could stay standing. She clung on for a few moments until she decided to give in to StarClan's wishes.

Silverstar was dragged into the water like before, but she only saw a flash of Dewstar's brown tabby pelt before she was alone again. Instead of being violently pulled into the forest, the water slowly faded into the trees as she watched.

The red cat, who she had assumed was Redstar, padded out of the forest as usual. She saw the she-cat bunch up her muscles to leap at her, her eyes completely black except for a small dot of bright yellow .

Silverstar prepared herself for the attack, but the she-cat didn't jump. Instead, She blinked a few times, raising a paw towards her forehead and sat down. Redstar looked at Silverstar, the darkness in her eyes fading as Silverstar relaxed her tense muscles.

The forest seemed to brighten up as Redstar smiled and dipped her head towards the silver she-cat in front of her, her fur smoothing. Now she seemed more like the stories described, the wise and caring cat who had built her own Clans from scratch.

Silverstar tried to force herself to say something, to get answers from this historic cat, but her jaws seemed glued together.

"You weren't supposed to get this vision." Redstar laughed a bit as she spoke. "It was for Dewstar...but you handled it well and prevented the event. If you see Dewstar, can you warn her about the first part of the vision?"

Silverstar nodded, still unable to speak. Redstar dipped her head towards her again, then melted into stars, which floated into the sky and spread across the forest.

***

Silverstar woke up with a start, the den around her spinning slightly. She was in the medicine den. She wondered for a moment why she was there, but then it all came back to her.

After blocking in the foxes, she had been traveling back to her territory with her Clan when she had suddenly appeared in PondClan territory. The start of her dream. She must have passed out and been brought to Berryfall.

Silverstar stood up, shaking her fur out, and tried to gage how long she had been asleep. Berryfall padded in after a moment, blinking sleepily.

"Oh, you're awake! Do you feel ok?"

Silverstar nodded, uncomfortably aware of the fact that she was now half blind. That was what had felt wrong in the dream! Her vision had been restored in the dream, and now that she had realized that, Silverstar wished, more than ever before, that she was asleep and dreaming in her den.

Berryfall looked at her strangely, then repeated his question, slower this time.

"Yeah, I'm fine...StarClan needed to talk to me." Berryfall's eyes widened slightly, but he seemed happy that she was ok none the less.

He turned to prepare some herbs and Silverstar slipped quietly out of the medicine den. As she walked, she noticed that one of her legs had a new scratch running down it. It had clearly already been treated by Berryfall, so she assumed that it would be ok to walk on.

After checking up on the Clan, Silverstar turned her attention back to her dream. What did she have to tell Dewstar? She tried to remember some more details from her vision, but it was already

fading from her memory.

Was there a deadline for her talking to Dewstar? The pond had been bathed in moonlight, but she hadn't looked up at the stars enough to know if it was a full moon or not.

Her thoughts trailed off, turning to her blind eye. She could hunt and fight fine, but she would never see a cat sneaking up on her from her blind side. She would never-

Silverstar blinked. She was back at the pond. Her black tail fur spiked up in annoyance. Why couldn't StarClan just leave her alone for the day?!

Then she noticed the reflection on the ice. It was almost the full moon, just a couple days before the gathering. She sent a silent thanks to StarClan for the information, then appeared in her territory once again.

She looked at the sky, disappointed to find that it was no where near sundown. Silverstar would have no way of knowing when she had to talk to Dewstar until many hours later.

She busied herself with patrols and hunting, but she had already been out three times by sun high. Rain was slowly falling and Silverstar brought her freshly caught prey to her den.

The rain continued falling, growing in intensity until Silverstar grew worried about the safety of StoneClan's camp. Would the rain be enough to flood it?

Lightning flashed through the forest, strikingly bright against the pitch black skies. Silverstar let her thoughts wander as she gazed at her camp through a layer of rain.

She jerked her head up as Silverstar realized the skies had begun to clear. Her eyes lit up with surprise and she looked at the stars above her. How had so much time passed without her noticing?

She had to wait a moment for most ofthe clouds to move away from the sun, then flattened her ears. It was the full moon.

Silverstar felt a sudden flash of guilt, but shook it off. If StarClan had really needed her to warn Dewstar, they would have told her to earlier. Atleast, they should have.

Silverstar turned to walk back into her den, planning to warn Dewstar the next day.

Behind her, the remaining clouds cleared to reveal the moon, which was only a few claw lengths from being full

Chapter 22 - Lightningstar

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath the Fallen Tree for a Clan meeting." Lightningstar smiled slightly to herself, always happy to share good news with her Clan.

She watched from her position on the dead tree as her Clanmates walked out of their dens to hear her speak. Bramblepaw and Rosepaw were the last ones to appear, the latter clearly still shaken from her earlier panic.

"Warriors of RainClan, I have good news! PondClan and StoneClan have solved the fox problem!"

"How?" Bluefeather mewed from below the tree. Lightningstar was slightly annoyed that she hadn't even gotten the chance to explain, but she shook it off.

"They have trapped the foxes in their cave with some dead trees." Some of her clanmates purred quietly.

Not wanting to take up more of her cats' time, Lightningstar quickly jumped down from the dead tree. She glanced at Rosepaw and Bramblepaw, hoping that they would be comforted, even a little bit, by her announcement.

"Will the trees really keep the foxes away?" Rosepaw said quietly. Lightningstar nodded and when Rosepaw still didn't look convinced, she nodded towards the forest in a silent invitation to go out on a walk.

Rosepaw headed out, Bramblepaw following close behind her. Lightningstar and Pebblelight followed them, quietly telling the apprentices where to go when they lost their way.

Rosepaw still seemed a bit on edge, but Bramblepaw was as happy and cheerful as ever.

Lightningstar and Pebblelight talked quietly about their Clan, watching the younger cats out of the corner of their eyes.

"BRAMBLE-" Lightningstar looked up sharply up as she heard Rosepaw shriek. She ran up to Bramblepaw, who was sitting at the top of the hill, laughing.

Rosepaw was glaring angrily up at him from the bottom of the hill, near the Fox Cave. Lightningstar stifled a laugh, not wanting to humiliate Rosepaw because her Clan leader was laughing at her.

Pebblelight, apparently, didn't think of hiding his amusement. He let out a few laughs, but stopped suddenly when Rosepaw glared at him.

Rosepaw stood up and shook out her fur, looking at the Fox Cave. She padded slowly over it, and before Lightningstar could warn her she sniffed closely at the logs.

Rosepaw fell backwards as a fox barked at her, hissing. She slashed at its muzzle and smiled as it growled and retreated into its prison.

Rosepaw's eyes widened as she realized how many foxes were in the cave in front of her. She backed away from the cave and climbed up the hills towards the other cats, glancing back at the foxes a few times.

"Did you see that? The fox didn't even have the strength to hit me back!" Lightningstar had been worried that the black she-cat was going to panic again, but she seemed to be fine.

Bramblepaw smiled and snuck up behind his sister, raising his paws to push her down the hill again. Rosepaw turned towards him, already swinging her paw at him.

The siblings tumbled down the hill together, laughing. Lightningstar and Pebblelight looked down at them as they started play fighting.

Lightningstar laughed at their antics, stopping quickly when she noticed Pebblelight staring at her. She turned to him, raising and eyebrow.

"Would you ever want to have kits...?" Lightningstar felt a pang of surprise at the question. She didn't want to let her mate down, but she had never seen the appeal of motherhood.

"...No, I think it would interfere too much with my leadership duties." Lightningstar's ears flattened, hoping that Pebblelight wouldn't be too disappointed in her.

She looked at Pebblelight hesitantly, surprised to see that he was smiling.

"Oh, thank StarClan! I would be a horrible father!" Pebblelight laughed.

"I'm sure you wouldn't be *that* bad." Lightningstar seemed to burst with joy at the fact that her mate was such a perfect match to her.

Lightningstar looked up as Rosepaw and Bramblepaw reappeared, Bramplepaw's fur puffed out. Rosepaw had won their play battle.

The four cats padded back to their camp, leaves crunching beneath their paws.

Lightningstar looked at Pebblelight, practically glowing with happiness. Her Clan was happy, her mate was happy, and her clanmates were finally safe from the foxes.

They walked into camp, Rosepaw and Bramblepaw padding over to their father, Dustfur. A low rumble sounded from the sky and Lightningstar flattened her ears as they were hit with raindrops.

Hunting and border patrols were still going out, even after the sky turned dark with rain and clouds. Lightningstar was tempted to go out herself, but most of the Clan had gone out and the camp needed to be protected. She walked over to Frostfeather, who was watching the rain from the medicine den's entrance.

"Hi, Lightningstar!" The cheerful tom mewed, blinking water out of his eyes.

"Hi. How are you liking the rain?"

"Well, it's nice to be able to see everyone using our special hunting skills finally." Frostfeather said, looking past Lightningstar into the forest.

"That's what makes us RainClan!" Lightningstar, seeing that the conversation wouldn't continue, padded off to the fresh kill pile. She shuffled through the prey, picking out a mouse she found near the bottom of the pile.

A hunting patrol came back, each cat carrying prey. Lightningstar was sitting near her den, eating her mouse when Pebblelight padded up to her with a vole.

The mates sat together, watching their clanmates go in and out of the camp. Lightningstar stood up and shook out her fur as thunder and lightning rang through the clearing.

Every cat still in camp retreated to their dens, small gaps in the clouds revealing that the warriors of StarClan had appeared in the sky.

Lightningstar yawned, Pebblelight following her into the leader's den. Together they cleaned out their nest, picking out pine needles and small thorns.

They settled into their nest, their pelts close together. Lightningstar smiled to herself, wrapping her gold tabby tail around her muzzle.

She slept soundly, knowing her mate would always be there for her.

Chapter 23 - Dewstar

Dewstar walked into the medicine den, a few days before the full moon.

"Are you ready to go?" Blossompool looked up from her herbs and swiped them into a dent in the medicine den's walls for storage.

"Yup!" They headed out of the den into the PondClan camp. Most of the cats were settling into their dens except for Spottedflower, who was watching over the Clan for the night. The tortoiseshell nodded to them as they left.

They walked through the forest until they reached the pond and stopped to gaze at it for a moment. The surface shown with sunshine. They walked past it, Blossompool leading the way.

Dewstar stared in awe at the sunset, the orange light making her pale fur glow. Blossompool looked back her, laughing at the dumb founded expression on Dewstar's face.

Blossompool's white patches reflected the orange and pink, her blue eyes strikingly cool against the warm light. The two she-cat watched the sunset, waiting to move until stars had begun to appear in the sky.

Thunder rumbled above them and Dewstar felt disappointed that such a clear night was turning cloudy.

"I guess we won't be able to see the stars tonight..." Rain was slowly falling down, but Blossompool didn't seem to have noticed.

"The rain will clear eventually. I haven't been planning this for half a moon just for a bit of rain to ruin it!" Blossompool's eyes flashed with determination.

Dewstar looked at the medicine cat, whose fur was now outlined with moonlight. Her doubts faded away and she fell in behind

Blossompool as they walked towards Highstones.

Dewstar's pelt prickled as they stepped over the RainClan border, still unsure about crossing into enemy territory. But Blossompool padded ahead confidently, and Dewstar didn't want to seem cowardly in front of the medicine cat.

Blossompool made her way through the forest easily, as if she had walked the path for a thousand moons. Dewstar struggled to keep up, distracted by the uncomfortable feeling of pine needles beneath her paws.

Blossompool climbed over a dead tree, Dewstar following, then emerged into a grassy clearing. Dewstar's paws led her to a large stone overlooking the area.

The rain had started to clear by then and Dewstar inhaled sharply as she gazed at the stars. She had never seen a view this beautiful!

She stepped forward, up to the top of the stone. Dewstar stared up, making out cat shapes in the glittering sky. She smiled as she gained a new respect for her warrior ancestors.

Dewstar glanced to her side and saw that Blossompool was standing beside her, laughter shining in her blue eyes. Dewstar's mind whirled, thinking of how she must have looked to the tortoiseshell as she had stared into the sky in awe as though she had never seen a star before.

A rain drop landed on her head, breaking her attention away from her thoughts. The storm quickly started again and Dewstar looked over to see Blossompool frowning towards the clouds.

Dewstar flicked her tail to get the attention of the medicine cat, who hesitantly got down from the rock.

Dewstar and Blossompool made their way quickly through the forest, eager to get home to their camp before the storm got any worse. They sprinted up a hill, mud sloshing beneath their paws.

Dewstar reached the top, struggling to control her paws slipping in the mud. She shrieked as she lost her footing and was thrown down

the hill, towards the pond. Mud splashed on to her pelt as she landed hard on her side.

She gasped for breath, feeling a huge wave crash over her. Dewstar tried to dig her claws into the ground, but the pull of the water was too strong. She had just enough time to glimpse Blossompool's horrified face before she was engulfed in water.

She tried to swim upwards like she had been trained, but pain exploded on her side. As she struggled she saw Splashstar's starry white and ginger pelt and felt outraged as she floated around her easily.

The dead cat dissapeared with a smile and Dewstar was hit with another wave of water. She heard a muffled splash and she spotted Blossompool struggling to swim towards her.

Dewstar's vision was blocked by another wave. Blossompool was floating away from her, looking around wildly. Dewstar inhaled sharply, causing water to rush down her throat. Medicine cats weren't taught how to swim.

She struggled to swim over to the tortoiseshell, praying to StarClan that there wouldn't be another wave to drag them apart. Dewstar reached her and pushed her towards the pond bank with her remaining strength.

Blossompool looked back at her in horror as she was pushed out of the pond, coughing up water.

Rain was still crashing down onto the pond. Dewstar prepared to climb out of the pond herself, but heard the familiar crash of a large wave and her wet pelt pricked up with fear.

She feebly tried to swim away, but exhaustion took over and she let herself sink. If StarClan wanted her dead she wouldn't fight it any longer.

Dewstar looked up at the blurry image of Blossompool and felt a rush of relief. Her Clan would be fine with the leadership of her medicine cat and deputy, Palefur. Wait, Palefur! Her relief was

replaced by panic.

Palefur hadn't been trained for long enough. He had only been deputy for a few moons! But, he had shown himself to be a great one.

Dewstar let out her breathe, ready to join her ancestors in the stars. The stars above her swirled and glimmering cats joined her in the pond. Dewstar gasped, air filling her lungs for the first time in what seemed like moons.

She looked at the light ginger cat in front of her, joy filling her heart. Sunpebble! He smiled at her and together they floated upwards. Dewstar looked at her starry paws and glanced at Blossompool. She walked over to her friend and placed her muzzle on her forehead, closing her eyes.

Dewstar wished the tortoiseshell a silent farewell, then followed her ancestors into the skies.

***

Author's Note -

Hello! Thank you so much for reading this book, even though the beginning wasn't the best.

The next book, Fallen Roses, will be up in like two seconds. I already wrote the allegiances and the prologue. :)

Hope you enjoyed! :D